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THE HISTORY OF FRANK HAMMOND.

THE

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AND

ADVENTURES

OF

FRANK HAMMOND.

LONDON:

Printed for R. BALDWIN, in Pater-noster-Row.

MDCCLIV.

THE HISTORY AND ADVENTURES OF FRANK HAMMOND.

What I have ſeen permit me to relate.

LONDON:
Printed for R. GRIFFITHS at the *Dunciad* in *Pater-noſter-Row.*
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OF

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THE

THE ADVENTURES OF *Frank Hammond.*

Wherein by way of Introduction he complains of the Calamities of human Life, and makes ſome ſhort and general Reflections upon Charity.

BESIDE the Original Depravation and Frailties of Nature, there are ſo many other Accidents and Misfortunes incorporated and

twisted into the very Beings and Constitutions of Men, that, indeed, the Custom *Euripides* proposes to the World seems to me the most just and reasonable, *viz.* to lament those that are born, upon the account of the many Evils among which they enter at their Birth, but when they die, and rest from their Labours, to celebrate their Funerals with Rejoicing and Praises; this the whole Nation of the *Thracians*, which justly challenge the praise of Wisdom, were wont to do, without being instructed by Teachers, but purely from their own Observation of the state and circumstances of Human Life.

I need not borrow Instances (I think) to aggravate the Calamities that

that are incident to the Life of Man, the Caſe will appear evident enough from a ſhort view into the preſent Condition of the World; for conſidering how many there are that ſtruggle through their Lives in perpetual Toil and Drudgery; how many that are oppreſſed with Slavery, harraſs'd with Cruelty, pin'd with Want and Poverty, overwhelm'd with Shame, and Infamy, and worn out and conſum'd with conſtant Sorrow, Anxiety and Vexation, it muſt neceſſarily be allowed, that the greater part and generality of Mankind are but one bare Remove at beſt from flat and ſubſtantial Miſery.

'Tis true, indeed, to moſt of theſe miſerable ones, the Divine

Providence indulges frequent Intervals of Eaſe and Satisfaction: Sweetens the bitter Cup now-and-then with ſome grateful Intermixtures, to make the nauſeous Draught of Life go down a little the more eaſily; yet I dare ſay, whenever they compare their few Goods with their many Evils, their Fears, Croſſes, and Diſappointments, with their Succeſſes, Hopes, and Enjoyments, they will find the former much out-balance the latter in a great many Particulars.

Well, but my own woful Experiences ſhall not urge me into Complaints, or a long Introduction. I muſt own, indeed, that the Divine Wiſdom foreſaw that an equality of Conditions would natu-

naturally breed Confuſion and Diſorder in the World, and therefore without doubt it was that it deſign'd ſome for Honour and Riches, and others for Contempt and Poverty; but yet in this great Diviſion, did not ſo inſeparably diſunite them but that they ſhould ſtill have a mutual Dependence, and Conſiſtence one upon another; every rich Man being God's Steward, and, particularly intruſted to provide for the indigent parts of his Family, ſuch as are the poor and needy; and his omiſſions in that point, is not only a breach of his Duty and Truſt, but withal, an Indication of his Unthankfulneſs, Falſhood, and Ingratitude.

God, who is the common Father, as well as Friend to Mankind, cannot be ſuppoſed to be ſo partial to provide for the Pomps and Luxuries of ſome, and then leave the reſt to languiſh under the want of Neceſſaries convenient for the ſupport of Life; and yet methinks if we look into the viſible Portions of the Poor and Rich (according to the preſent practice of the World) we can perceive very little to the contrary.

I muſt confeſs the thoughts of this has been my ſad Companinion through my whole Pilgrimage, and truly 'tis a Subject fit for the Wonder and Sorrow of any conſidering Man, that one part of the World ſhould be revelling

velling and gluttoniſing, whilſt another is languiſhing thro' Want and Indigence, and the gripings, and preſſures of downright Hunger and Neceſſity.

Indeed I have been amazed to ſee with what indifferency and ſatisfaction ſome of our wealthy Cormorants have beheld their own human Nature pineing and ſtarving in the Perſon of their poor Brother, though at the ſame time perhaps they have been burdened with an Exceſs of another kind, and might be relieved againſt both by a more equal diſtribution.

However, for my own part, I muſt acknowledge it would be ungrateful in me to make reflections: I have lived already

more than twenty Years upon the common Stock, I mean by the help of my Begging Talent, I have made a doleful Paſſage through the World: the manner and Circumſtances I intend to relate at large in the following Sheets.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

In which he gives an Account of his Birth and Parentage, the death of his Father and Mother, with the ſeverities and hardſhips he met with in his Childhood, the kindneſs of his Aunt, the manner of his being ſent to School, and from thence to Oxford, &c.

I Was born in the Year One thouſand ſix hundred and thirty ſeven, my Father was a Gentleman of a conſiderable Fortune and Figure in his Country, having been twice honoured by King *Charles* the Firſt with the Cha-

racter of Envoy Extraordinary to two Foreign Courts, and as I have been often told, behav'd himſelf not only with a great deal of Prudence and Sincerity in his Negotiations abroad, but likewiſe acquitted himſelf like a true *Engliſh* Gentleman, in the Station of a Juſtice of the Peace, and Deputy-Lieutenant of his County.

He was a member in the long Parliament, and when he ſaw the Affairs in the Houſe of Commons inclining apace towards Rebellion, &c. with ſeveral other Loyal Gentlemen, he entered his Proteſt againſt their Proceedings, and retired into the Country, where he continued till the unhappy Tumults broke out, and then as an early Inſtance of his Fidelity to his

Royal

Royal Maſter, rais'd a Troop of Horſe at his own Charge.

Not long after, the King was pleaſed to give him a Regiment of Foot, and appoint him Governor of a Town in the *Weſt* of *England*, which he defended to the laſt Extremity; but being, through the want of Proviſions, or rather by the Treachery of ſome of the Officers in the Garriſon, which the Parliament had brib'd to betray him, forced to ſurrender the Place upon Diſcretion, he was immediately made a Priſoner of War, and ſoon after tried by a Court Martial, and ſentenced to be ſhot to Death; however, by the friendſhip of his Keeper, with the help of a Woman's Habit, he made his Eſcape the

Night before he was to Suffer, and got beyond Sea, where he continued till King *Charles* the Second made his Attempt at *Worceſter*, and there amongſt a great many other brave Men, he had the Misfortune to be wounded by a Muſket-Shot in the Shoulder, of which he died within two or three days after, but firſt got the following Letter conveyed to my Mother, the particulars of which, I have ſet down at large.

Collonel

Collonel Hammond's *Letter to his Lady.*

My Dear,

"BY the Aſſiſtance of the "honeſt Bearer, I have got "an Opportunity to give you a "ſhort Account of our Misfor-"tunes: Our whole Army is "entirely routed and diſperſed, "and what's become of the "King I cannot learn; I pray "God deliver him out of the "hands of the Rebels; as to my "own part, I have received a "ſcurvy Wound by a Muſket-"Shot in my Left Shoulder,

"which

" which the Surgeon tells me
" is Mortal; whether it be or
" not, is no great matter, for it
" ſeems they have diſcovered who
" I am, and if I ſhould recover
" of my Wounds, are reſolved to
" take me off afterwards. Well,
" My dear, I have a good Cauſe,
" and a gracious God, and ſo am
" no otherwiſe affected for the
" Loſs of my Life, than as it relates
" to you, and my poor Chil-
" dren. I would adviſe you if
" I could, which way to manage
" yourſelf in this perplexed State,
" but alas, my Circumſtances are
" alſo entangled, that I know not
" where to begin; beſide the
" Anguiſh of my Wound at pre-
" ſent is ſo very great, that I am
" hardly able to ſupport myſelf
" under

" under it. I know, my Dear,
" your Loyalty will diſſuade you
" againſt immoderate Grief, and
" then your Virtue and Conduct
" in our long Separation has ſu-
" perſeded even the neceſſity of
" adviſing you, with regard to
" your Family. As for poor *Frank*
" if your Circumſtances will per-
" mit, and his own Genius in-
" clines him to it, I would have
" him bred a Scholar, he may
" live to ſee the World mended,
" and be an Inſtrument to repair
" the Ruins of his Family.
" Commend me earneſtly to all
" my Friends and let my Children
" know the Father ſends them his
" Bleſſing. I am, my Dear, till
" we meet again either in this or

the

" the next World, affectionately
" thine. *Adieu.*"

About two days after came a Meſſenger from the Govenor of *Worceſter* to my Mother with the heavy News for my Father's Death, and withal, that he had obtained a Grant of her to bury him where ſhe pleaſed. My Mother received the Meſſage (as I have been told) with a Reſolution and Courage beyond the common behaviour of her Sex, and inſtead of breaking out into paſſionate Exclamations, and Reflections, which ſhe knew would be of no uſe at that time of day, immediately diſpatches away a Servant, with a Neighbour or two, and a Hearſe, who brought him home, and the Night following

lowing he was buried privately in a Vault amongſt his Anceſtors.

The Death of my Father was (in ſome reſpects) a Preludium to the reſt of my Misfortunes, for in leſs than a Month, by an Order of State, all we had was ſeized upon, and my Mother, with four Children, forced out of her Houſe to ſeek Shelter and Relief where ſhe could find it; the Creditors to mend the matter, put in their Claims too, ſo that in a ſhort time all was Sold and torn to pieces.

Neither did my Misfortunes ſtop here, for my Mother being deprived of her Country Habitation, thought *London* might be the fitteſt place to fix upon ſome method for a Livelihood; but there

there we had not been, to the beſt of my Remembrance, above ſix Weeks, before my Siſter ſickened of the Small-Pox, and died, my youngeſt Brother died about ten days after of the ſame Diſtemper, and my Mother the very Week following: and truly if it had not been for the extraordinary Care, and Charity of an excellent Woman, in whoſe Houſe we Lodged, my Brother and I had both periſhed with the reſt.

Here I began to have a ſmall Senſe of our Condition, and accordingly got a Friend to inſtruct me how I might beſt recommend it to an Aunt I had in the Country, who no ſooner heard of it, but indeed pitied us, and ſent for

for us home to her Houſe, and to ſpeak the Truth, uſed us both with a Tenderneſs and Compaſſion, not very common in ſuch caſes.

This good Aunt ſent us to School, and though my Maſter was none of the beſt, yet with his Aſſiſtance, and my own Induſtry, in two Years time I became ſo far a Proficient in the *Latin* Tongue, that with the help of a Dictionary, I could Conſtrue ſome Verſes in *Ovid*'s *Metamorphoſis*, and Tranſlate a Dialogue in *Eraſmus*, and turn an eaſy Sentence into *Latin*, and make a lame Verſe, *&c.*

My Maſter himſelf had never been at any Univerſity, but was a young Gentleman that had

ſpent

ſpent his Fortune in the King's Service, and ſo was forced to ſhelter himſelf under the character of a Pædagogue, to be ſecure from the ſuſpicion of the State, and to get a poor Livelihood; but yet I muſt needs do him this Juſtice, that he acquitted himſelf to me ſo much like a Friend as well as a Maſter, and beſtowed ſo much of his time and pains upon me, that I have reaſon to believe that the beſt Tutor in the Kingdom could not have improved me more in ſo ſhort a time.

I was now in my ſixteenth year, and my Aunt conſidering that her Age and her Infirmities together might conſequently call her off before ſhe had any ways fixt me in a Capacity to ſhift for

for myſelf, reſolves with all the Expedition that could be, to ſend me to *Oxford*, and get me admitted into one of the Colleges as a Servitor.

This was not long under debate, but an Opportunity offered itſelf, that indeed was of conſiderable Advantage to me. Sir *Alexander*-- an eminent Cavalier, notwithſtanding the preſent Diſturbances and Corruptions of the Univerſity, reſolves to ſend his Son to *Chriſt-Church* for a Year or two, and withal, at the requeſt of my Aunt, condeſcended that I ſhould attend upon him as a Servitor, and that he would pay my Tutor, and allow me a Competency to ſupply me with Commons, *&c.* according to the cuſtom of the College. This

This Propoſal ſquared exactly with my Aunt's Deſign in every particular; for though ſhe was a Gentlewoman of as good a Family as moſt in *England*, and had formerly been the Miſtreſs of a very plentiful Fortune, yet the Wars, and the Sequeſtrators together, had reduced her to a poor Annuity of Fifty Pound *per Annum*: which, with all her Prudence and Conduct, was but juſt enough for the ſupport of her Family; however, upon Sir *Alexander*'s motion, ſhe, to the utmoſt of her Power, equipt me out very decently and genteely for the Univerſity, and withal did me the favour to accompany me thither, to ſee me conveniently fixed in the College.

I

I had not been there long, but I perceived, to my great diſſatisfaction and concern, my want of School Education, and would often reflect upon what I had heard a Gentleman tell my Mother (who did her now and then the Honour to come and condole with her in the abſcence of my Father) *viz.* That if ſhe intended me for the Univerſity, ſhe ought to take particular Care to provide me with a Maſter that was qualified to inſtruct me in the grounds and principles of Learning, before ſhe ſhould ſuffer me to be admitted; that (ſays he) will make his future Studies eaſy, and delightful, and will be ſure to ſtick faſt to him to the End of his Life; I found myſelf ſadly

at

at a Loſs in that particular, and was ſo much affected to ſee my Fellow-pupils run through their ſeveral Exerciſes with a great deal of Freedom and Pleaſantneſs, whilſt I was forced to labour and tug for every thing I did; that I was once reſolved to quit my Pretenſions, and return to my Aunt, and requeſt her to put me to ſome other Buſineſs that I was better qualified to go on with.

But my Tutor, that had a ſingular kindneſs for me, ſoon perceived how caſes ſtood, and accordingly one Evening, after he had finiſh'd his Readings, *&c.* he diſmiſſes the reſt, and orders me to ſtay behind in his Chamber; Young Man (ſays he) I find you have had a very ill Schoolmaſter,

and

and I am ſatisfied both by your Looks and Actions, you are ſenſible of your own Inſufficiency. But come, don't deſpair, you have Youth and Parts, and thoſe in Conjunction with your Induſtry, and good Inſtruction, will ſoon make up your other Defects.

The firſt thing, I think, he enjoin'd me, was the Tranſlation of one of the hardeſt Colloquies in *Eraſmus*, the next a Satire out of *Juvenal*, and then ſome Odes from *Horace*, and withal confined me to a large part in the *Greek Grammar* every Morning; but then, what was the greateſt Advantage of all, he was pleaſed to allow me a Study in his own Chamber, and would not fail twice a Day at leaſt to

ſpend half an Hour in giving me particular Directions, and Advice, by which Means, in leſs than a Year, I found myſelf ſo well improved, that I was able to go through with my Buſineſs with as much Eaſe and Satisfaction as the beſt of my Companions.

But this happy Condition did not laſt long before Fortune began again to play the Jilt with me; my Aunt died, and what was worſe, her Sickneſs was ſo ſudden and violent, that ſhe had no time to make her Will, and ſo all ſhe had fell in courſe to a fanatical Siſter, that always mortally hated our Family, upon the Account of their Loyality, and *me* for *their* Sakes. My Maſter removed from the Univerſity to the Inns of Court,

and

and what was as great Diſappointment to me as either, my worthy Tutor left the Univerſity, in order to Travel with a young Nobleman into *Italy*.

Here I am all unravell'd again, left friendleſs and deſolate, and to aggravate my Misfortunes too, lay under the Character and ſuſpicion of being diſaffected to the Common-Wealth of *England* (as they called it) and what to do in this hard conjuncture I could not determine; ſometimes I reſolved to go into my own Country, to try if I had any Friends left there, at other times I propoſed to follow my Maſter to *London*, and ſee how the Waters would move in that part of the World; then I concluded to repreſent my Con-

dition to the College, and throw myſelf upon the Charity of the Houſe; but after all, from a few ſecond thoughts I found there was little good to be expected from either of theſe. So that in ſhort, I thought there was no Remedy left, but I muſt even venture to commit myſelf to the Mercy of my cruel Step-mother, Fortune.

This Reſolution (tho' it was the worſt) carried the Cauſe againſt all the reſt; and now my next Buneſs was to equip myſelf with Materials fit for a Peregrination; myBooks and other Equipage muſt be ſold in courſe, and indeed I was not long in making my Markets. I think, as near as I can remember, all I could get for the

the whole, was not above fifty Shillings, the better part of which I laid out in ſome Travelling Neceſſaries, and ſpent together in taking leave of my Acquaintance.

CHAP. III.

Wherein he gives an Account of his leaving the Univerſity, and recites a ſhort Copy of Verſes he writ at his Departure, with his Adventures with a Mountebank, &c.

HAVING diſpoſed of my Moveables, and furniſhed myſelf with ſome few Neceſſaries, which I thought were moſt convenient for a Pilgrimage. *i. e.* An Inkhorn, a Pen-knife, a Quire of Paper, Wafers, and a Satchel to carry my little Equipage, and Itinerant Library, which was only a Shirt, two or three Bands, and Hand-

Handkerchiefs, and a pair of Stockings, an old *Horace*, and a *Virgil*, a *Terence*, and an *Eraſmus*, a *Greek Teſtament*, a *Greek* and *Latin Grammar*, and a *Common-Prayer Book*, &c. About Seven a Clock, the Tenth of *March*, in the Year Fifty ſix, with a heavy Heart, and abundance of Tears and Complaints I left *Oxford*, ſteering my Courſe directly over *Magdalen*'s Bridge, in Order (as I then thought) to make the beſt of my Way to *Cambridge*.

I had hardly reached *Heddington-Hill*, but I was ſeized with a deep and profound Melancholy; the Thoughts of my former Misfortunes, with my preſent hard Circumſtances, fell upon me at once; and truly the Reflection

of what I had already underwent, and the certain Proſpect of future Trouble and Miſery, together with the piercing Aggravations I was under for the Loſs of my Univerſity Life, and the Opportunity of improving myſelf in my Studies, the Two only Things that hard Fortune had left me, which I thought worth either my owning, or regard, put me into ſuch an Agony and Diſorder, that I was forced to betake me to the ſhelter of an Hedge, and reſt a little before I could recollect myſelf.

Having, though with ſome difficulty, at length overcome this melancholy Tranſport, I made up to the Top of the Hill, from whence I took my laſt View of beloved *Oxford*, and upon the

Stone

Stone where the Scholars uſually perform the Ceremony of *Seaſoning their Freſh Men*, I ſat down again, and writ the following Verſes.

Farewel dear *Oxford*; but ſince we muſt part,
Here take the ſad remainder of my Heart.
'Tis all thy wretched Son has now to give,
A broken Heart's his ſole Prerogative.
Hard fate before had me of Friends depriv'd,
And yet methought in you they all reviv'd.
You were my Friend, my Mother, nay, my Wife,
Whom once, I hop'd, I'd wedded for my life:
Oh, pity me, for could I let you know,
With what a ſtrange unwillingneſs I go,
You'd think 'twas hard that fate ſhou'd jilt me ſo.
I know not what I am, ſince our divorce,
All my whole Frame is jumbl'd out of courſe,
The World's a Wilderneſs, Men the Beaſts of Prey,
And ſeem to me more rude, and wilder far than they.

I had went on with my melancholy Rhymes a little further, I believe, if I had not diſcovered a Traveller paſs by me, that from his Garb and Aſpect I judg'd might be in ſome Reſpects under my own Predicament. In ſhort, I took up my Satchel and made all the ſpeed I could in order to recover him, and (tho' I found he was much a better Footman than I was) after a hard ſtretch at the Brow of *Shot-over* Hill, I came up with him.

After we had exchanged the common Compliments of well-overtaken and well-come Sir, the next Thing in courſe was, whither are you bound, and upon what Expedition? I told him the very Truth, that I was an unfortunate Scholar that had met with abundance

dance of Diſappointments and croſs Accidents, and for want of longer Subſiſtance, was forced to leave the Univerſity to try if I could find out ſome way that might intitle me to a poor Livelihood, and that I intended to wander the Country till I could be ſo happy to fix myſelf in ſuch a Condition, and moreover, that I had ſome Notion of making *Cambridge* in my Way.

His Anſwer was much of the ſame nature with mine, and indeed, as he repreſented his Circumſtances, at firſt ſight they look'd very near a-kin, he told me he was a Doctor of Phyſick, that by a Complication of malicious and adverſe Fortune, had been unluckily bandied about the World from his Child-

Childhood; and, what was worſt of all, he had had the ill fate lately to looſe his Horſe, and was now upon a hard march to *London*, to try if he could raiſe Money among his Friends and Relations, to equip him with another.

His candid Relation, I confeſs, affected me extreamly, and indeed in a great meaſure took of the Edge, and abated the Severity of my Reflections upon my own Condition. I began to think that Providence had thrown me into the Company of this unhappy Stranger purpoſely to let me know that there were other Perſons in in the World as unfortunate as myſelf; and truly to ſee with what Chearfulneſs and Fortitude he

ſeem'd

ſeem'd to bear up under his pretended Diſtreſs, I thought did ſoverely check and reprimand my preſent Querulity and Deſpondence.

I quoted the old Verſe to him; *Solamen miſeris Socios habuiſſe doloris.* And he replied to me again out of *Chaucer*.

'Tis vain to Sigh, and make great Moan,
For there is help, or there is none.

And thus in a mutual Condolement of each others Misfortunes, we trudged on till we came to *Wheatly*, a little country Town about five Miles from *Oxford*.

Here my new Companion would needs ſtop and drink, and withal told me that at a Bridge about half a Mile off, the Road divided,

and

and if I held my Reſolution for *Cambridge* we muſt conſequently ſeparate; but come (ſays he) "ſince "we are ſo luckily met, and our "Circumſtances and Tempers "ſquare ſo naturally, 'tis pity me-"thinks we ſhould part ſo ſoon, "and therefore we'll even caſt "lots whether you ſhall take my "way, or I yours."

This was no ſooner propoſed but agreed upon, and the Lot determined him to go my way, which he very willingly complied with, but firſt (ſays he) I think it will not be much amiſs to let the Town know what Profeſſion I am of, perhaps I may raiſe three or four Shillings to defray the travelling Charge.

This

This I muſt confeſs did a little ſurpriſe me; I could by no means imagine how a Doctor of Phyſick could propoſe the raiſing three or four Shillings in a ſtrange Place in an hour or two, which was the longeſt Stay we could pretend to; but for my better Satisfaction he ſoon pulls off his Budget, and expoſes a mixture of Pills, Powders and Plaiſters, with a bundle of Printed-Papers, ſome of which he immediately delivers to a Runner to be conveniently ſcatter'd and diſpers'd about the Town.

Here I ſoon perceived that my Doctor of Phyſick was nothing elſe in plain *Engliſh* but a downright Mountebank, and began now to be as uneaſy, and diſturbed with his Company, as I was before

before pleaſed and rejoiced in it: However, I thought myſelf in point of Honour and Promiſe, obliged to abide our firſt Reſolution, and ſo reſolved to Travel with him a Day or two, till I could find out a handſom Pretence to ſhake him off.

In leſs than an Hour his Bills had wrought ſo effectually that the Room where we ſat was crowded with Men, Women, and Children, and truly notwithſtanding the heavy and preſſing Thoughts and Apprehenſions that hung upon me, I could not forbear ſmiling now-and-then to hear with what profound Nonſence and Impertinence this worthy Doctor entertained the Spectators.

Some-

Sometimes he would cajole them with the ſtange, and almoſt blaſphemous Relation of the moſt miraculous Cures and Operations he had performed, and the better to incline them to credit his Report, he ſhews them ſeveral artificial Cancers, Wens, Stones, &c. At other times he impoſes upon them the Wonders of his Travels, and the foreign Names of abundance of Emperors, Kings, and Potentates that he pretended had honoured him with their Letters, and Recommendations; in ſhort, by his hard Words, his Legerdemain Tricks, and impudent Pretences together, he inſinuated himſelf ſo far upon the Credulity of the fooliſh People, that there were few went off

without buying ſome of his paultry Medicines

CHAP. IV.

In which he gives a further Account of his Travels with the Mountebank, who diſcovers to him the Secrets of his Art; they wander into Bedfordſhire *together, where he robs him at an Alehouſe, and then leaves him in Pawn for the Reckoning*, &c.

ABOUT Twelve o'Clock the Doctor makes up his Budget, having diſpoſed of as many of his Pills, &c. (as he told me) he had received Twelve Shillings and four-pence for, and ſo we diſ-

diſcharged the Reckoning, and ſet forward for *Thame*, which was the Place we had before agreed upon to Lodge at that Night.

Upon our march I aſked him ſeveral Queſtions, but more eſpecially concerning his Knowlege in Phyſick, and Surgery, and how, and where he acquired it. I found indeed that theſe kind of Interrogations were ſomething ungrateful at firſt; however after a little pauſing, and heſitation, he gave me the following ſhort and comprehenſive Account.

Young Gentleman, ſays he, I find you very Inquiſitive to know the ſecrets of my Qualifications, thoſe are Secrets we do not often, and indeed we ought not to diſcover to any body; but becauſe you ſhall

ſee how willing I am to oblige and divert you, I will tell you as much of the matter as is convenient, or perhaps you may expect.

In ſhort then, I am one of thoſe that the World calls Mountebanks, and truly but a young Practitioner neither, having not been ſet up for myſelf above three Months at moſt; as for your Univerſity-Learning I don't pretend to it, nor, to tell you the Truth, much regard it; Our Buſineſs, and our Profit too, depends chiefly upon our vending our Pills, Balſams, Powders, *&c.* And for that we have a common form; as to our Surgery, and Manual Operations, we have very few but the meaner ſort of People to deal with, and thoſe we venture upon

right

right or wrong; if we happen to cure them, we get Money and Reputation, and don't ſpare to magnify our Succeſs, if we kill them, we have ways enough to bring ourſelves off, and ſo there is no danger in it at worſt.

Here I could not forbear interrupting him. Sir, ſays I, are the Lives of your Fellow-Chriſtians ſo inconſiderable to you, that you dare venture to trifle them away upon every ſlight Occaſion; if I miſtake not, this is a ſort of deliberate Way of committing Murder, and that ſo inhances and heightens the Sin, that renders it not only without Meaſure, but almoſt without Pardon.

What ſtrain of Wonder and Amazement can bear proportion with the

the desparate Wickedness of Men, that can thus knowingly, and considerингly rush themselves upon such an unaccountable Undertaking? And of what a crimson Colour must that Soul appear before the great Tribunal, that is thus dyed with a continual repetition of innocent Blood?

My Companion was a little startled to hear me reflect so hard upon his Profession, and made several frivolous Pretences to acquit himself of the Charge; and indeed, I had some difficulty before I could persuade him to go on with his Relation; however, after he had walkt himself a little off the Remembrance of what I had said, he proceeded.

"*Sir*

"*Sir*, I find you are very "angry with our Chirurgical Pro-"ceedings; for my own part, "I have never had any occaſion "to make uſe of them; but if I "had, notwithſtanding the ſeverity "of your Allegations, I believe I "ſhould be ready enough to ven-"ture; and truly I can ſee no "Reaſon (with ſubmiſſion to your "religious Punctilio's) why every "Man ſhould not make the moſt "of his Practice."

I would willingly have reprimanded him here too, if I had not been apprehenſive that it would conſequently have deterr'd him from finiſhing his Account, and ſo I only aſkt him, that ſince he had never been concerned in any Manual Operations, how he came

came by thoſe Cancers, Wens, &c. Which he expoſed at *Wheatly*.

Here he was a little at a ſtand again; "In fine (*ſays he*) You have "a ſtrong Inclination to know the "depth of our Art, for once I "will gratify your Curioſity, and "tell you the whole. As to this "Wen, and Cancered Breaſt "which you ſaw, I muſt own "they are only Counterfeits, "which I borrowed of one of "our Fraternity; but notwith-"ſtanding, they ſerve the purpo-"ſes for which they are intended, "*i. e.* To amuſe, and impoſe "upon the People, as well as if "they were real.

"Theſe are of conſiderable "uſe and advantage to us in ſeve-"ral Reſpects, but eſpecially upon

"the

" the Stage, where we not only
" expoſe them to the publick
" View, but ſometimes fix them
" to the Bodies of indigent Per-
" ſons, which we hire upon
" ſuch Occaſions, and then cut
" them off again with as much
" Formality, Dexterity, and
" Caution, as if they were Na-
" tural.

" We draw Teeth after the
" ſame Method, and indeed,
" the generality of the great Cures
" and Performances which we
" make ſuch Boaſts and Accla-
" mations of, are mere Cheats
" and Deluſions, and for our
" Medicines, we have them by
" a ſort of Tradition one from
" another, and in the main, do
" all uſe the very ſame.

"The groſs of our Pills is
"nothing elſe but Horſe-Aloes,
"which we ſometimes intermix
"with the courſer ſort of Roſin
"of Jallop, and make up in
"Liquorice-Powder; our Balſams
"are generally made of Hogs-
"lard, and Bees-wax, tinctured
"with ſome ſorts of Oils to give
"them a different Colour; our
"Plaiſters are the ſame, with
"the Addition of Burgamy-pitch,
"or Roſin, to make them draw
"and ſtick; our Powder for the
"Worms is commonly Powder
"of Paſte, and that for the Teeth,
"Powder of Tobacco-pipes, and
"theſe we make up proportionably
"into ſmall Parcels, and wrap
"one of each into a Bill of Di-
"rections, and ſell for a Shil-

ling

"ling or Six-pence, according "as we find our Markets will "bear."

This Relation ſeem'd ſo ingenious and candid, that I began to have a little better Opinion of my Fellow-traveller; I began to believe that he was ſome unfortunate Gentleman, that was forced to take up with this ſcandalous Profeſſion for want of a Maintenance; however, I was reſolved to ſound him to the Bottom, and therefore deſired him to let me know from whence he derived his Knowledge of theſe occult Myſteries.

Indeed he would with all his Heart have evaded an Anſwer to this, but truly I preſſed him ſo

very hard, that at laſt he told me, he had been ſeveral Years a Servant to one of the firſt *Engliſhmen* that travelled the Country under the Character of a Mountebank; and that he had been Aſſiſtant to him both in his Chamber, and upon the Stage (as I learnt afterwards he had been his *Merry Andrew*) that he had ſpoke his Pacquets (as he phraſed it) and helpt him to make up his Compoſitions, and ſo from the general and particular Obſervations he had made, he thought he had gained Experience enough to qualify him to ſet up for himſelf; and moreover, he told me he was ſo well ſatisfied in his own Perfections, and in the Advantages that were conſequent

to

to the Employ, that if he were but once able to raiſe Money to keep ſome Attendance, and build a Stage or two, he did not queſtion but in a ſhort Time he ſhould be able to keep his Coach and Four as well as the beſt of them.

By this Time we were come within half a Mile of *Thame*, and now the next Motion was where to lodge; being both Strangers, we were reſolved to ſtrike into the firſt ſubſtantial Inn we came at, as near as I can remember, 'twas the *Five Bells*, where indeed we had very comfortable Accommodations in all Reſpects.

The next Day being Market-day, the Doctor was reſolved to go out with his Pacquets, and accordingly had a Stool fixt in a

convenient Place, where he could beſt mount to make his Harangue to the People, but this, notwithſtanding 'twas a public Day, did not prove ſo ſucceſsful as *Wheatly*, it ſeems the Place (as he called it) was too young; his meaning was, there had been one of the ſame Profeſſion too lately there, and ſo there was no good to be done.

We went from hence to *Ayleſbury*, where we ſtaid the Night following, and the next Day came to *Leighton-Buzard*, in *Bedfordſhire*, the Doctor ſtill expoſing his Pacquets at every Town we ſtopt at, but with very little Succeſs; this ſcurvy Brother that had ranged the Country before him, had ſpoiled all.

Well,

Well, there was no good to be done at *Leighton* neither, and ſo my Comrade concluded to lay aſide his Pretenſions for the preſent, and to make the beſt of his way to *London*, and accordingly told me he would go and ſend his Satchel with the Carrier, which, of a ſudden was grown too heavy for him, and then come and drink a parting Cup, and take a ſolemn Farewel of me. Having travelled together for three or four Days with the greateſt Freedom and Familiarity, I could not ſuſpect that he could have any Deſign to betray me at laſt, but finding him ſtay longer than ordinary, I began to be a little jealous that the Doctor had dropt

me. To make ſhort of the Matter. I got out of Bed where he left me, and from a very ſmall Enquiry, found that he had both pickt my Pocket. and rifled my Satchel, and what was worſe, left me in Pawn for the Reckoning too.

This I thought was a Misfortune, at leaſt equal to any of my former. I was racked at once with a Thouſand diſmal Terrors and Apprehenſions, and that which tormented me moſt of all was, how to diſ-entangle myſelf from my Landlord; ſometimes I thought upon one Expedient, and ſometimes upon another, at laſt I concluded, Honeſty was the beſt Policy, and the

ſafeſt

safeſt way to bring me off, and therefore reſolved to declare my Condition to my Landlady, and commit myſelf entirely to her Charity.

CHAP. V.

Wherein he gives a ſhort Account of his Rencounter with his Landlady, writes a begging Copy of Verſes, and a Letter to a Gentleman in the Town, who gives him Money to pay his Reckoning, and recommends him afterwards to a School, &c.

PURSUANT to my former Reſolution, after I had put on my Cloaths, with a great deal of trembling and conſternation. I called for my Landlady, and began to give her a Narrative of my Condition: She heard me with ſome kind of Patience

and

and Pity at firſt; but when I came to that Part of it which related to the Reckoning, ſhe grew in an Inſtant ſo outragious and violent, that I could not have imagined any Thing in Nature could be ſo cruel and brutiſh. The beſt Word I could get from her was Rogue, Thief, Cheat and Villain, and no Puniſhment leſs than hanging, was bad enough for me. I offered her all the Equipage and Books my worthy Companion had left me, but all would not do, the Books ſhe ſaid were of no uſe to her, beſide, they were *Latin*, and might be Popery for what ſhe knew, and ſo ſhe would have nothing to do with them.

Nothing

Nothing would ſerve but I ſhould be locked up in my Room till her Huſband came Home to get a Warrant to carry me before a Juſtice of Peace; and indeed there was no Remedy but I muſt endure this hard Sentence; however, I had the Opportunity of converſing with the Maid in the Interim, that, as good Fortune would have it, was waſhing in the Yard, directly under the Window, who told me very compaſſionately upon the Recital of my Condition, that there was a worthy Gentleman in Town, that in all probability would take Pity of me, and that if I would write a Letter, ſhe would find a Method to get it conveyed to him.

This

This honeſt Motion I lik'd extreamly, and truly, as Matters ſtood, I thought it was the beſt Expedient my unhappy Circumſtances would admit of. I muſt confeſs indeed that I had a very ſharp Conflict with myſelf before I could ſo far vanquiſh my Modeſty to ſettle my Reſolutions in that Point, and then too, I was as much confounded and diſturbed to think what Method and Terms were moſt ſuitable to recommend me, with the greateſt Innocence and Advantage; but this was not long under Debate, for the Muſe ſtepped in, and offered her Aſſiſtance; and indeed I accepted of it, under the Notion that the Relation of my Circumſtances in a ſhort Copy of Verſes, might be

be ſomething out of the Road of common Begging, and ſo to work I went, and wrote what follows.

From an unhappy Wand'rer in Diſtreſs,
Accept, and pardon, Sir, this bold Addreſs;
Believe him, 'tis a rigid Turn of Fate,
Has brought the wretched Wand'rer to your Gate,
Oh pity him, for 'tis the only Time
He e'er was known to beg Relief in Rhyme.

But, Peace, baſe Muſe to urge me on forbear;
Would'ſt thou betray me now, in my deſpair?
Canſt thou than this no better way contrive,
To keep thy poor diſtreſſed Friend alive?
No, let me die, for that's a leſs Offence,
Than to incline me thus to Inſolence.

Beſides, already to my Coſt I know,
That human Life is ſo expos'd to Woe,
That it can ne'er requite the Pains I'm at,
To forſter up the ſickly, peeviſh Brat;
I ſee, that after all that I can do,
Still Grief and Pain, and ſecret Ills purſue.

But, yet, methinks, before my Journey's end,
'Tis ſtrange if my hard Fate ſhould not unbend;
Life's but a Lottery, and one good Caſt,
Makes ſome amends for all the bad ones paſt,
In ſpight of Fate there muſt be ſome Reſerve;
But, ſure 'tis hard, in th' Interim I ſhould Starve.

Haſte then, my Muſe, to yonder happy Place,
And humbly plead thy Maſter's wretched Caſe.
Point out where he in deep Confuſion ſtands,
Hanging his Head, and lifting up his Hands;
Blaming the Cauſe that brought both him and thee,
Thus to tranſgreſs the Rules of Modeſty.

Then, for theſe Rhymes, I charge you there be Juſt;
Own 'twas your fault, for you provok'd me Firſt,
And after this———
If you perceive no pardon nor relief,
Bring the ſad News, and to conclude our Grief,
You to your Hill, I'll to ſome Cave retire,
Firſt mourn my rigid State, then, Hermit like, expire.

Upon

Upon the back ſide of the Verſes I writ this Letter which I thought would be neceſſary to give him a further Account of my Condition, *&c.*

SIR,

"THIS *Poeta de triſtibus*, is "a poor unfortunate young "Man, that a Conjunction of croſs "and malicious Accidents have "caſt upon your Coaſt, where for "want of Subſiſtance (like one "after a Shipwreck) forced to "ſeek Relief from the Inhabitants "of the Place.

"How he fell into this fooliſh "vein of Rhyming he can give "no Account, unleſs it be that "his preſent extremity (like one "wak'd by the out-cry of fire)

"forces

" forces him to do ſomething for
" Relief, and the Muſe, that was
" always ready enough to be
" meddling upon other Occaſions,
" would needs perſuade him now,
" that, this differing much from
" the ordinary Methods of peti-
" tioning, he could not fail of
" ſucceeding in his Deſire.

" As for the profound dullneſs
" and flatneſs of my Verſe, there's
" enough to be ſaid if the Thing
" required it. Poetry and Poverty,
" tho' they are too commonly
" convertable Terms, yet indeed,
" they are very improper Com-
" panions. A Poet in diſtreſs is
" ſeldom known to write good
" Verſes: *Ovid* himſelf, that was
" the greateſt Wit of the Age
" he lived in, loſt much of his

" Natural

" natural Temper and Genius in " his Baniſhment; there is a " ſtrange difference between his *nec* " *Jovis ira nec Ignis*, the Flights " and Raptures of his *Metamor-* " *phoſis*, and his *Hei mihi quod* " *Domino*, in his *de triſtibus*. " And, *Tully* too, complains " paſſionately, of the diſturbance " of his Mind, and charges the " roughneſs of his Stile upon the " depreſſion of Spirits he writ " under.

" But, Sir, all this is very little " to the purpoſe, I wiſh it were " as eaſy to excuſe the Inſolence " of this Trouble, as it is to plead " for a Perſon that writes bad " Verſes under my Circumſtances; " in this Particular, I have no- " thing at all to ſay, but am forced

" to

"to acknowledge my own Guilt,
"and throw myſelf entirely upon
"your Mercy. 'Tis true, 'tis a
"violent Neceſſity that has urged
"me upon this ungrateful Expe-
"dient, and that I hope, in
"Conjunction with your own
"Charity and Compaſſion, will
"interpoſe a little for this unfor-
"tunate Stranger, that with all
"the Diſtance and Submiſſion
"that can be, ſubſcribes him-
"ſelf,

Your moſt Obedient,

Humble Servant,

F. HAMMOND.

After

After I had finiſhed my Letter and the Verſes, upon a ſecond reading I thought them ſo flat and dull, that I had much a do to forbear tearing them in Pieces; however upon the importunity of the Maid, I ſealed them up, and ſubſcribed them, and then delivered them to her, who, according to her promiſe, got them inſtantly conveyed to the Gentleman.

But, certainly, never Mortal was in a deeper perplexity for the Succeſs of an Adventure than I was for this; but whilſt I was ſadly ruminating upon the Conſequence of what I had done, up comes my Landlady, and with ſome ſort of Jealouſy and Concern, told me there was Squire *Thompſon*'s

ſon's Footman below wanted to ſpeak with me, and if I pleas'd, I might go down and talk with him, who told me if I was the Perſon that ſent the Letter to his Maſter, he was order'd to deſire me to come to the Houſe as ſoon as I could.

The Boy having delivered his Meſſage, and received my Anſwer that I would wait upon his Maſter; immediately left me, and now the next Thing to be done was to compound with my Landlady; who by no Means would permit me out of her Doors, without a ſufficient Pledge for her reckoning. I offered her again all I had, but juſt the very Cloaths upon my Back, for ſecurity.

But

But all would not do, my Books were but trifles to her, unleſs I had ſomething of real Value to depoſit; let who would ſend for me, ſhe'd keep me till ſhe had her reckoning, which after all this Noiſe and Confuſion was only four and nine Pence.

To make ſhort of the Matter, I was forced to go to my Chamber and ſtrip off my Shirt, and leave her that, with every Thing elſe that I had, before ſhe'd ſuffer me to move; but juſt as I was marching out a-doors, in comes my Landlord, and ſuppoſing I was going quite away, would needs force me back to take his Flagon at parting.

We were no ſooner come in, but his Wife, with a great many

Falſhoods

Falſhoods and Aggravations, gave him an Account of the whole Tranſaction; but truly the Man was ſo far from joining with her Barbarity, that when ſhe came to ſpeak of the Shirt, I had enough to do to prevent him from beating her, however he ordered her immediately to bring me all my Things again, and told me he would freely take my Word for what was owing, and withal earneſtly requeſted me not to make any Reflections upon his Wife's Incivility and Cruelty to me.

Having put my Shirt on again, and committed my Satchel to the Cuſtody of the Maid. I went directly to the Gentleman's Houſe, who ſent for me into his

his Parlour, where he was playing at Cards with his Lady and her Mother. He aſked me ſeveral Queſtions. and indeed I gave him a general Account of my Misfortunes, which I obſerved did very ſenſibly affect them all, but more eſpecially the Old Lady.

They preſently ordered a Servant to ſhew me into the Pantry, and give me ſome Victuals, and ſent me a Bottle of Wine. Whilſt I was eating, the good Old Gentlewoman came to me, and with a Tenderneſs and Reſpect beyond what I could imagine, told me, with Tears in her Eyes, "She knew my Father Perſonal-
"ly, and all his Family; and was
"heartily ſorry theſe unhappy
"Times

"Times had reduced her to ſuch "a low Ebb, that ſhe could not "do for me as ſhe would." After all the Expreſſions of a moſt compaſſionate good Woman, and a great many Apologies for the meanneſs of the Preſent, ſhe gave me half a * *Jacobus*, and then left me to finiſh my Dinner.

As ſoon as I had din'd, I was conducted back to the Parlour, where the Gentleman was writing me a Letter of Recommendation to a Clergyman in *Northampton-ſhire*, that he had accidentally heard enquiring for a Perſon to aſſiſt him in his School; the Purport of the Letter was, that I was a young Gentleman of a good Family. that the common Calamity had reduced to extremity,

* Value Eleven Shillings and Sixpence.

and if he found me qualify'd for his Purpoſe, he would engage for my Integrity, *&c.*

With the Letter, he gave me ten Shillings, and his Lady a Crown, together with a great deal of friendly, and, I may ſay, fatherly Advice, and Admonitions, and what was more, gave me his Word that if ever it ſhould pleaſe God to reſtore the King, he would take particular Care to have him inform'd of the hardſhips and ſufferings of myſelf and Family.

I could not tell what return to make for theſe Favours, and truly had much ado to contain myſelf from openly betraying the weakneſſes and frailties of my Nature; indeed, I did make a ſhift to bear up

up till I had taken my leave, which I am ſtill jealous of, was not ſo ſolemn and decent as it ought to have been upon ſuch an extraordinary Occaſion.

Being thus refreſhed and relieved, I went back to my Alehouſe, and diſcharged my Reckoning, which ſo ſoftened my Landlady, that nothing now was good enough for me. I ſoon perceived my Landlord was an honeſt Cavalier, and after a little further talk and enquiry, I found withal he had been a Serjeant in the Regiment my Father was Collonel of. When I told him that, I never ſaw any Perſon in ſuch a violent Tranſport, I could hardly hinder him from returning me my Money, whether I would or not,

and beating his Wife for but ſeeming to refuſe it. The poor Man was ſo ſtrangely affected, that he hardly knew what he ſaid or did, but at length coming to himſelf, he entertained me through the whole Evening, with ſeveral remarkable Paſſages of the Wars, and Particulars of my Father's Life, which I had never before heard of.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

He Travels towards Northampton, *Encounters an Itinerant Parſon upon the Road, who inſtructs him in ſeveral of the Secrets and Myſteries of Begging, and then wheedles him to join with him,* &c.

EARLY next Morning I got up, and having made the Maid ſome ſmall acknowledgments for her Civility, and diſcharged the Houſe, I ſet forward towards *Northampton*; my Landlord walked with me as far as *Brickill*, where he treated me with the

beſt the Town would afford, and gave me a Token to drink with one of his Acquaintance, that had formerly been a Quarter-maſter to my Father, and now kept an Inn upon the Road.

'Twas about twelve or one before my Landlord and I parted, ſo that Night I went no further than *Newport-pannel*. I lay at the *George*, which was the only Houſe in the Town, where the King's Party frequented, and by virtue of a private Token I had to the Maſter, I was conducted into a Room, where a Society of Loyal Gentlemen conſtantly met two or three Times a Week to read the News, and make their Obſervations and Reflections upon the preſent Poſture of Affairs.

I muſt confeſs there was one Thing, even in this moſt agreeable Company, that rendered it a little ungrateful, I mean their common Cuſtom of hard drinking. This was indeed too much the general Practice of thoſe unhappy Times, which I find ſince very ſharply and pathetically reflected upon by one of the greateſt Men that ever adorned the *Engliſh* Nation.*

"It is (ſays he) ſure a far leſs "deplorable Spectacle to ſee a "Gentleman ſpoiled of his For-"tune by his Conſcience, than "his Luxury, and to behold him "under the Stroke of the Headſ-"man, than under thoſe more "infamous Executioners, his "Luſt and Intemperance; yet I

* The Author of the *whole Duty of Man.*

" fear if the Martyrology even of
" thoſe ſuffering Times were duly
" ſcann'd, *Venus* and *Bacchus*,
" would be found to have had
" many more Martyrs, than God
" and Loyalty."

My Conſtitution utterly unqualified me for a hard Drinker, and ſo I was forced to plead Indiſpoſition and Inability, which, in Conſideration of my being a Stranger and upon a Journey, was allowed of. I ſtayed with them till about ten before I went to my Chamber, whither I was attended by the Landlord, who aſked me ſeveral Queſtions, in order (I ſuppoſe, as he was directed by the Company) to diſcover who I was, but that I thought was uſeleſs here,

here, and ſo I only made him an Anſwer in the general.

Between four and five next Morning I ſet out, with a Reſolution to reach *Northampton* that Night; and, I believe, had been there in good time, if I had not been interrupted by an unlucky Accident, which carried me another Way, and was the Cauſe of no ſmall Trouble and Diſcontent to me afterwards.

When I had travelled about eight Miles onwards of my Journey, I overtook a Perſon upon the Road in the Habit of a Clergyman, and truly, both from his Garb, Behaviour, and Diſcourſe, had no Grounds to ſuſpect to the contrary. I accoſted him with all the Diſtance and Regard that I thought

was due to his Character; and, indeed, his Deportment and Reply was decent and genteel, he was bound for *Northampton* as well as myſelf, he told me, and, provided I would not overwalk him, would gladly embrace the Benefit of my Company.

We walked together about two Miles before we ſtopt, and then we called at the Perſon's Houſe to whom I had the Token from my honeſt Landlord at *Leighton*; he treated us with a great deal of Civility and Reſpect, and nothing would ſerve his turn but we muſt ſtay all Night: Whether he took any thing for our Entertainment I cannot remember, but, to the beſt of my Knowledge, he did not, and would very willingly have detained

detained us for two or three Days longer, and, withal, offered to lend us Horſes to *Northampton*.

By this time my Aſſociate had ſufficiently inſtructed himſelf in my Inclinations, and, accordingly, the more to ingratiate himſelf with me, pretended he was one of that unhappy Number the Government had maliciouſly and unjuſtly deprived of Preferment for not taking the Covenant; and, what was worſe, that a Conjunction of hard Circumſtances had driven him from his Friends and Country, to ſeek Bread and Liberty among Strangers.

Here I began to cloſe with him, and gave him a ſhort Account of my Caſe, which he received with ſo much hypocritical Compaſſion

paſſion and Formality, that indeed I thought him one of the moſt devout and pious Perſons that I had ever converſed with; he told me he was of *Hart-Hall* in *Oxford*, and gave me ſuch a ſingular Account of the Manner and Conſtitution of the Univerſity, and the Names and Characters of ſo many eminent Perſons, that there was not the leaſt Ground to ſuſpect him. I muſt confeſs, the Remembrance of my former Companion often came into my Mind; but then, when I came to compare their different Characters and Demeanors, I could not forbear blaming myſelf for my Suſpicion.

In a few Hours we had contracted a very ſtrict and ſolemn Friend-

Friendſhip, and, as I thought, began to deal our Minds one to another, with all the Candor and Frankneſs of true and ſincere Friends; he told me ſeveral odd, but delightful and pleaſant Accidents, that he had been forced to encounter, ſince he had been reduced to the hard State of an Itinerant; I gave him in return an Account of ſome of mine, but particularly my late Adventure with the Mountebank: Together with the Manner of my Deliverance; moreover, I recited the Verſes and Letter to him which I writ at *Leighton*, and gave him a full and particular Relation with what extraordinary Candor they received them, and how kindly

the

the good Gentleman and his Family treated and relieved me.

He told me, upon the hearing of the Letter and Verſes, Notwithſtanding my Misfortunes, I was one of the happieſt Men living, and if I would but make Uſe of the Talent that God had entruſted me with, I need not doubt a Subſiſtance in any Part of the Kingdom; that very Copy of Verſes and Letter, ſays he, if you know how to apply them rightly, are a ſufficient *Vade Mecum*, to carry you all over *England*; but (ſays he) I find you are a youngſter in the Secrets of Travelling, and therefore upon our March to-morrow, I'll give you ſome general Inſtructions, by the help of which, you'll be able to

to underſtand your buſineſs a little better.

To be an exact Maſter in this kind of Art of Living, I muſt tell you, requires a great deal, both of Judgment, Diſcretion and Experience, and when once you are arrived to a tolerable Perfection, a Perſon of your Senſe and Learning, may make his Paſſage through the World with abundance of Delight and Satisfaction.

It was too late now to deſcend into Particulars, and ſo we went to our reſpective Apartments for that Night, with a mutual Reſolution to be up early in the Morning in order to proſecute our Journey, as we accordingly did about ſeven the next Day.

When

When we came at a convenient Diſtance from the Town, I put him in mind of his Promiſe, *i. e.* to inſtruct me in the Secrets and Myſteries of a travelling Mendicant, which he readily complied with, and withal told me, to prevent being miſ-underſtood, it would be neceſſary to give me a general Idea and Notion of the Buſineſs.

As to the Science and Occupation of begging (for that in ſtrictneſs of Senſe is the propereſt Name I can call it by) it is in the main, a kind of *ars vivendi*, a ſort of Trade and Profeſſion as well as any of the reſt, ſo that if it be not always nicely conformable to the Rules of Virtue, Juſtice and Truth, yet there is as much, if

not

not more, to be ſaid for it, than for any other Science or Calling.

But Sir, ſays I, is it impoſſible for a Man to be virtuous and a Mendicant? We have it from the Mouth of a great Man, that a Man may be Poor or Sick by Misfortune, but none can be vitious or unjuſt, but they muſt be the Cauſe of it themſelves: and truly, I cannot ſee what tolerable Reaſon can be aſcribed, why, an ingenious and faithful Account of our Circumſtances, ſhould not be as moving and acceptable, as one that is forged and ſurreptitious.

I grant indeed (ſays he) that the true State of your Condition, provided you had none but Loyal Perſons to make your Addreſſes to, were ſufficient, but then how would

would you do, if you ſhould fall into a Country, where there are none of theſe ſort to be found, which you know is not impoſſible conſidering the Age we live in! Beſides, if you take up the Trade (as I ſaid) *quatenus ars vivendi*, why then, I think in point of Prudence, you are obliged to make the moſt of it; and if there be a little Prevarication upon Occaſion, I cannot perceive where the great Sin or harm of it lies; you know a violent Neceſſity can plead to any Thing, even to the Breach of the general Rules of Civility and Modeſty. But Sir, this is all foreign to our Caſe, and if you throw ſtumbling Blocks in my Way, you can never expect I ſhould diſcharge my Promiſe.

To

To go on therefore, if you intend to be a Proficient in the Science of begging, your firſt Buſineſs will be, to conſult the Nature and Temper of the Perſon you are to make your Application to, and by what Expedient you may beſt recommend yourſelf to him: Our Method for this is, commonly to go to ſome adjacent Alehouſe, where, for the Expence of Sixpence, we may be equipt with the ſeveral Characters and Inclinations of all the Gentry and Clergy within four or five Miles round.

When you have hit of the Perſon, the next Thing is, to conſult whether it be moſt proper to attend him yourſelf, or ſend him the Nature of your Caſe in a Letter;

Letter; if you do the firſt, you muſt be ſure to fix upon ſuch a time when you are morally certain he is not engaged in Buſineſs or Company; if you do the latter, the great Difficulty is, to get your Letter handſomely conveyed to him; my Way (and I think it is the beſt) is to carry it myſelf and walk about the Hall, *&c.* till I have got my Anſwer.

He had went on with his Diſcourſe, if we had not been interrupted by a third Perſon, of whom, my Companion enquiring the Way to *Northampton*, we were informed that we were come more than two Miles out of the Road, and that our Way lay directly back again; which I believe, from the Sequel of the Matter,

Matter, was rather a Deſign than a Miſtake: He aſked me, "If "my Occaſions at *Northampton* "were ſo urgent and particular, "that I could not avoid going "thither? If they are, ſays he, "I'll accompany you with all my "Heart; for my own Part, I am "not obliged to any one Place, "and ſhall be willing to diſpenſe "with a greater Inconveniency "than this, for the Sake of ſuch "good Converſation."

I told him my Buſineſs was only to carry a Letter of Recommendation to a loyal Clergyman, in order to requeſt him to accept me as an Aſſiſtant in his School, from whence I propoſed ſome ſort of Settlement, till I could be able

able to gueſs how it would pleaſe God to diſpoſe of the World.

If your Reſolutions are fixed to undertake the Drudgery of an Uſher, ſays he, far be it from me to oppoſe it; however, I may tell you as a Friend, it is but wedding yourſelf to a Life of Slavery, Vexation, and Confinement; and indeed, were I in your Circumſtances, had I your Parts and Youth, and were I Maſter of ſo many Qualifications as you are, it ſhould be the laſt Buſineſs in the Kingdom I would take up with.

But, Sir, ſays I (being alas! but too eaſy to be perſuaded in that Particular) if I ſhould relinquiſh my Pretenſions, what muſt be done for a Subſiſtence; I have neither

neither Eſtate, Money, nor Friends, and to be left deſtitute in ſuch a barbarous Age as this, is a reaſonable Inducement for me to put my Hand to any thing for an honeſt Livelihood, that I am in the leaſt capable of undertaking.

I will, ſays he, in no reſpect interpoſe in your Affairs; as for a Subſiſtance, my Condition in every Point is the ſame with yours, and has been ſo for many Years, and yet, Thanks to my Stars, I have never wanted Food and Raiment, and, what is more, have enjoyed a Freedom and Privilege which you muſt not expect under the Capacity of an Uſher.

Beſide, I have had the Opportunity of ſeeing ſeveral Countries, and making my Obſervations upon

Men

Men and Things, which, I muſt tell you, is no inconſiderable Advantage to a Man of Parts and Learning. But, Sir, ſuppoſing all this, I cannot be ſo vain to believe, that my Parts and Learning (as you are pleaſed to intimate) can anywiſe intitle me to ſuch extraordinary Privileges; neither can I underſtand, provided I were qualified in all reſpects as you repreſent me, how I could be ſecure of Food and Raiment, and withal enjoy the grateful Opportunity of ſeeing the Country, which, I muſt own, ſeems to me an Advantage as great as any thing elſe you can morally propoſe.

All that I tell you, ſaid he, is from my own Experience; I have already paſt through ſeveral happy

Years

Years in an itinerant State, and though I had very few of the Perfections you are Maſter of to aſſiſt me, have made a very comfortable Progreſs; but it is unneceſſary to multiply Words, and therefore the ſhort of the Caſe is this, if you think fit to join yourſelf with me, you may depend upon a true Friend and faithful Companion, and then for our Subſiſtance, I could eaſily demonſtrate to you, that there is not the leaſt Shadow or Pretence to apprehend the Wants or Defects of it.

CHAP. VII.

They ſtrole together into Leiceſter-ſhire, *try ſeveral Adventures in their Paſſage*; Frank *writes a* Latin *Letter to a Lady, and is rewarded; they are both ſeized and carried before a Magiſtrate; the Itinerant is diſcovered to be an Impoſtor, and* Frank *is honourably acquitted.*

WITHOUT many ſecond Conſiderations, I reſolved upon this new Expedition, *i. e.* to take a Turn about the Country, in Company with this ingenious and (as I thought) honeſt Itinerant; about three in the Afternoon we

we reached *Oundle*, where we ſtayed all Night; my Comrade I found was very well known all over the Place, having, as the Woman of the Houſe informed me, preached there about half a Year before, to the great Satisfaction and Applauſe of the whole Town.

To give him his due, he was a Man, as far as can be preſumed, without Learning, a Maſter of the *Engliſh* Tongue, and truly I was mightily ſatisfied to ſee with what Reſpect and Kindneſs every Body treated him; we were here merry and jocular; but (ſays he) young Gentleman, you muſt take this for a general Rule, never to ſpend of the main Stock, but upon caſe of Neceſſity.

Come (ſays he) I have thought of an Adventure, which I am confident will defray the Charge of the Night. About half a Mile out of Town lives an excellent Lady, you ſhall write out your Verſes, and the Letter you repeated Yeſterday, and I'll get them conveyed to her, which I am very certain will be a Piece, or at leaſt half a Piece in our way.

I had much ado to reconcile myſelf to this ungrateful Expedient; however, after a great many Intreaties from him, and Reflections upon myſelf, and withal conſidering that the Thing was not *malum in ſe*, I did comply with his Requeſt, and tranſcribed them juſt in the very Words and Form

Form as I firſt wrote them at *Leighton*.

He had not ſent them away above an Hour, but there came a Maid Servant with a Letter directed to *Francis Hammond*, the Contents whereof were as follows;

SIR,

" BY your ingenious Copy of " Verſes, and Letter, I find " you muſt needs be what you " pretend to, an honeſt Gentle- " man in Diſtreſs; indeed I am " truly ſorry my preſent Indiſpo- " ſition will not allow me to ſee " you; you may depend upon it, " it is not want of Reſpect which " your extraordinary Wit and " Parts may command from any " Body. I have ſent a ſmall

" Token by the Bearer, which I " hope you'll do me the Favour " to accept of, from your humble " Servant,

M. SHERBURNE.

The ſmall Token, as the good Lady was pleaſed to call it, was thirty Shillings, four or five of which I think we ſpent that Night, and put the Remainder into a common Bag; nothing could be more innocently pleaſant and merry than my Companion was through the whole Evening, and truly I was ſo well ſatisfied in my new Adventure, that for the preſent I had utterly forgot all my former Misfortunes.

We ſtayed here all *Sunday*, and upon *Monday* Morning ſet forward again,

again, reſolving to make the beſt of our way to *Boſworth* in *Leiceſterſhire*, where he told me before he went into the *South*, he left his Horſe, and ſeveral other travelling Neceſſaries. In our way he would be very often diſcourſing, and commending ſuch a kind of Life, and giving ſuch pleaſant Accounts of ſeveral diverting Paſſages he had met with in his Travels, that indeed I was very much affected and rejoiced in his Converſation.

When we had walked about five Miles, we came to a little Ale-houſe, and there inquiring, as his Manner was, what Gentlemen there were near, the Man of the Houſe told him, there was one of the worthieſt Men in

the whole Country that lived within half a Mile; here he would have had me tried my Verſes again, but that I poſitively refuſed; however he inſiſted I ſhould write him a Letter, which I did in the following Words, and put his Name to it.

SIR,

" YOU have this from one of " the moſt unhappy Men " living, from a poor Clergyman, " which a harſh and ſevere Law " hath firſt forced out of the " Church for refuſing the Cove- " nant, and then a Complication " of hard Circumſtances from his " Friends and Country, to ſeek " Bread and Liberty among Stran- " gers. Sir, the Character you

" bear,

" bear, both of a good and great
" Man, encourages me to believe
" that you will in ſome Meaſure
" commiſerate the wretched Con-
" dition of a moſt diſtreſſed Stran-
" ger. Pity and forgive him I
" beſeech you Sir, and accept his
" Thanks and Prayers, who ſhall
" ever eſteem it an Honour and a
" Happineſs to be thought worthy
" to be admitted into the Number
" of thoſe that are bound to bleſs
" you for your Charity and Be-
" neficence.

This Letter he carried himſelf, and the Gentleman, as he told me, gave him a Crown; to the beſt of my Remembrance we ſpent two or three Days at this little Ale-houſe, my Comrade going

out every Morning, to fetch in Contribution, as he called it. When we had done there, we ſet forward again, and the Night following came to a ſmall Market-Town about eight Miles further.

Here my Companion diſcovered a new Subject-matter for Adventure. A Lady that was an excellent Miſtreſs of the *Latin* Tongue, and very charitable and compaſſionate to all ſorts of Strangers and Travellers, lived in the Town, and nothing would ſerve his Turn but I muſt addreſs her in a *Latin* Epiſtle; which, though I thought was a very odd Expedient, yet my former Succeſs, and his Intreaties together, ſo far prevailed with me, that I was reſolved to try the Event, and ſo ſat down,

and

and with ſome ſort of Diſſatis-faction and Uneaſineſs ſcribbled this haſty Letter.

" Digniſſima Dom.

" SI quis ſit infelix hujus Epiſ-
" tolæ portitor quæras, Pere-
" grinus ſum; ſi ſortem quæ huc
" me adduxit, averſæ fortunæ
" ictus & malitia eſt. In puerili-
" bus annis bonis literis educatus,
" & tandem ad Oxonium miſſus,
" ubi per tres fælices annos incu-
" bui, at interim amicis perditis
" & defunctis a Collegio (hei
" mihi) haud invitus diſceſſi.
" Appropinquans igitur hanc tuam
" ignotam patriam, humiliter im-
" ploro benignitatem, ut aliquid
" ad ſuſtinendum fragile meum
" corpus accipium. Miſerere ju-

" venis

" venis magnæ ſpei, jampridem
" nunc perituri, ſic divina cle-
" mentia tui miſereatur in hoc
" mundo & in futuro.

Franciſcus Hammondus.

In anſwer to this, next Morning I received a Note and ten Shillings, with ſeveral Apologies for the Smallneſs of the Preſent. By the Help of theſe kind of Letters, Letters of Requeſt, Petitions, and other mendicant Conveniencies my Companion was well furniſhed with, we wandered the Country for near a Month before we reached *Boſworth*, which was the Place my Aſſociate had pitched upon to continue at for three or four Days, in order to equip us with

with Neceſſaries for a Summer's Expedition.

It was about eight o'Clock, I believe, before we came to our Quarters; and truly I think we had not been there above half an Hour, but in comes a Conſtable with a ſtrong Party of Aſſiſtance, and ſeized us both; it ſeems they had diſcovered my itinerant Friend to be a rank Impoſtor, and, what was worſe, that, by an ungrateful Piece of Knavery, he had cheated an honeſt Gentleman in *Warwickſhire* out of the Horſe he had left here till his Return from his ſouthern Expedition.

To make ſhort of the Story, we were both immediately carried before a worthy Juſtice of the Peace, who lived in the Neighbourhood.

bourhood. My Comrade was called firſt to his Examination, and though he made his Defence with the greateſt Aſſurance and Readineſs, yet the Charge againſt him was ſo heavy and plain, and confirmed by ſo many corroborating Circumſtances, that there was no Poſſibility either to ſtifle or evade it.

They proved ſeveral very black Things upon him, but eſpecially that his Orders, Teſtimonials, *&c.* were all forged and counterfeited, and that he had left his Wife at *Falmouth*, and had ſtroled the Country with another Woman, which he either was, or at leaſt pretended to be married to. Upon the whole, although the Juſtice was a Gentleman of

an

an extraordinary Temper and Compaſſion, and would very willingly have ſaved him, the Crimes againſt him were ſo exaltedly heinous and ſcandalous, and ſo evidently and clearly proved, that he was obliged to order his Clerk to make his *Mittimus* for *Leiceſter* Gaol.

My Turn came next, and, truly, my Companion was not more ready to plead for, and excuſe his Villainy, than I was at a Loſs to defend my Innocence. The good Gentleman perceiving me in ſuch a ſtrange Agony and Diſorder, kindly told me, I need not be ſo terrified; I was not charged with any of his Crimes, but only with being in his Company; which ſo far encouraged me,

me, that in a ſort of perplexed Manner, I gave a general Account of our Meeting, and of all our Travels and Tranſactions; with which the Juſtice and all the Company were ſo well ſatisfied, that with a great deal of Pity and Advice I was inſtantly diſcharged.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Frank *returns into* Northampton-ſhire, *delivers his Letter he had from the Gentleman at* Leighton *to the Clergyman, by whom he is received as an Uſher, he is ordained a Deacon; the Clergy-man's Siſter falls in Love with him, to avoid which he forſakes his Place, and returns to his former Profeſſion.*

BEING divided from my Companion by this unlucky Accident, I was in a Doubt whether I ſhould carry on my new Profeſſion upon my own Bottom, or return

return into *Northamptonſhire*, and deliver my Letter, which by great Accident I had preſerved, my former Succeſs and Encouragement, together with my rambling Itch and Inclination to ſee the Country, had certainly carried the Cauſe, if the Fate of my late Aſſociate had not happily interpoſed, the Proſpect of which was ſtill ſo diſmal and frightful to me, that at length, though not without ſome Reluctancy, I concluded upon the latter; but juſt as I was packing, up comes a Meſſenger from the Juſtice of Peace, with Advice, "That I muſt inſtantly come and ſpeak with him.

This put me under freſh Apprehenſions; and notwithſtanding I was ſenſible I had done nothing that

that could any ways expoſe me to the Law, yet for all that I was ſufficiently terrified to think what ſhould be the Conſequence of this ſecond Interview; however, I found there was no Remedy, but I muſt put it to the venture, and ſo that I might be out of my pain, as ſoon as poſſible, I went up to the Houſe.

When I came there, I found the Gentleman and his Lady walking in his Court, who immediately beckoned me to come to him. "Young Man, ſaid he, I was "very ſorry to find you in ſuch "bad Company, but I hope it "will be a Caution to you for the "future, how you embark your-"ſelf with Strangers: Ay, ſaid "the good Lady, you have had a

"very

"very happy Deliverance; for "it is a thouſand to one, if you "had continued your Rambles "with him, but he would have "drawn you into ſome Inconve-"niency that probably might have "been the Cauſe of your De-"ſtruction."

They ordered me to follow them into their Garden, and commanded me to ſit down with them in a Summer-houſe, and to give them a particular Narrative of my Travels and Circumſtances: which I did in as comprehenſive a Manner as I could; and withal, repeated my Verſes, Letters, *&c.* with all the reſt of my Tranſactions ſince my firſt departure from *Oxford*.

They

They were both extreamly pleaſed and affected with my Relation, and the Gentleman gave me ten Shillings to help to bear my Charges into *Northamptonſhire*, and ordered one of his Servants to go two or three Miles with me, to ſet me in the ready Road; and moreover, enjoined me to ſend him a Letter, with an Account of my Succeſs, as I did about a Month after.

The fourth Day, at Night, I came to the End of my Journey, and delivered my Letter, according to the Direction; and, indeed, was received with a Civility and Reſpect beyond what I could reaſonably imagine: They told me my good Friends at *Leighton* had ſent two other Letters in my Behalf,

half, and were under very great Apprehenſions and Trouble to find out what was become of me all this while.

I pretended ſomething (I cannot tell what) which paſſed well enough for an Excuſe; and ſo the next thing was, after ſome ſhort Examination, upon what Terms I would conſent to live with him? which I referred to himſelf; and he very candidly offered me twenty Pounds *per annum*, Meat, Drink, Waſhing, and Lodging, and the Conveniency of his Books and Study as often as I had Occaſion.

With this I thankfully complied; and the next Morning he conducted me into his School, where was, about thirty Gentlemen's

men's Sons; the greateſt part of which were boarded in his own Family.

And now I began to think myſelf as happy as I could wiſh; having, beſide the Opportunity of a fixed and ſettled Life, the Advantage of a pretty good Library, and the Converſation of a learned ingenious Man, that, upon all Occaſions, would be ready to give me his Advice and Inſtructions: We lived together like two Brothers; our Tempers, Inclinations, and Principles, ſquaring ſo exactly, that in the Space of twenty Months I don't remember the leaſt Jar or Diſcontent.

About half a Year afterwards there came the worthy Biſhop of ---- to a Nobleman's that lived

in

in the Neighbourhood, and nothing would ſerve my Friend, but I ſhould embrace the Opportunity and be ordained a Deacon. This Motion, at firſt, I was unwilling to condeſcend to, ſuſpecting (as I had good Reaſon) my own Inſufficiency, and want of Age and Learning.

We had ſeveral Debates before he could prevail with me to lay my Hand to the Plow; but having convinced me from the Canon, which, as he quoted to me, did only oblige me, *reddere rationem fidei in Latina Lingua*; and having cleared up all my other Doubts and Suſpicions, by the Help of the Character he had given of me, and a Title and Teſtimonial he had procured, upon St. *Tho-*

mas's

mas's Day following, which happened to fall that Year upon a *Sunday*, I was ordained.

My Lord examined me himſelf, and, withal, told me, "I "came to him ſo well recom-"mended, that he ſhould aſk "me but few Queſtions." The moſt material, to the beſt of my Remembrance, were concerning the *three diſtinct Offices of our Saviour*, with ſome other ſhort Matters relating to the Conſtitution of the Church of *England*, and kingly Government.

Some time after my Ordination, my worthy Patron would needs engage me to preach in the Pariſh-Church; which, after ſeveral Intreaties, I was obliged to comply with. It would look like

Vanity in me to tell you with what general Applauſe I acquitted myſelf; I had the Thanks and Careſſes of every body for my Sermon; but from none with ſo much endearing Sweetneſs and Friendſhip as from the Siſter of my Benefactor.

And here my cruel Stepmother *Fortune*, began again to try her Experiments upon me: For, from this very Inſtant, this poor young Lady entertained a particular Tenderneſs and Eſteem for me; which ſhe ſo long unhappily foſtered and cheriſhed in her Breaſt, that at length, by Degrees, it ſwelled into a violent and paſſionate Love.

I ſhould wrong her Memory, and the Judgment of all that knew

knew her, if I ſhould not give her the Character ſhe both enjoyed and merited, *viz.* of a virtuous, ſober, and a diſcreet Woman, barring her laſt Miſtake in beſtowing her Affection upon ſuch an unhappy Wretch as myſelf.

She made a thouſand pretty and innocent Diſcoveries of her Paſſion; and truly I ſaw it well enough, though I thought it Prudence not to let her know it; every body in the Houſe (eſpecially her Brother) perceived it as well as myſelf; and indeed it grew ſo violent and rapid at laſt, that ſhe had enough to do to contain herſelf within the ordinary Bounds and Meaſures of her Sex.

I knew not what to do in this difficult Conjuncture, and indeed was much more concerned for the unhappy Gentlewoman than for myſelf. Marriage I was reſolved againſt, being ſufficiently convinced that neither my Circumſtances, nor my Temper would in any Reſpect agree with ſuch a ſtate of Life.

Upon one Hand lay a large heap of Obligations and Favours I had received from her Brother; on the other, a compendious Chain of her own endearing Kindneſſes and Civilities; and which Way to ſteer a ſafe Courſe between theſe two dangerous Rocks, I could not determine; *Firſt*, I thought if I ſhould ſtay here till her Brother or ſome Friend ſhould

move

move the Thing, and then reject it, they could eſteem it no leſs than the height of Baſeneſs and Ingratitude, and reſent it as an Affront, not to be pardoned: And, *Secondly*, I thought if I went off privately, without taking my leave, it would bring ſuch an Odium upon me, that I ſhould never be able to wipe it out, the remainder of my Life.

However, I found there was no Remedy, but I muſt inſtantly reſolve upon one of thoſe Expedients; and truly as Matters ſtood, I thought the latter was the moſt proper; and accordingly having furniſhed my old Satchel (which I had ſtill lying by me, as a Relict of my former Adventures) with all ſorts of traveling Neceſ-

faries, upon the next Holiday in the Morning, to avoid ſuſpicion, I ſet forward upon my Journey, and at a Village about four Miles off, I writ this Note, which I got conveyed to them by a Meſſenger.

SIR,

"MY ſudden departure I know muſt neceſſarily ſurpriſe you; it is an impetuous Guſt of hard Fortune that will have it ſo; the reſt I leave to your own Conceptions. Let this commend me earneſtly to your worthy Family, to whom I wiſh all the Happineſs and Bleſſings of both Worlds. Accept my Thanks and Prayers for your friendly Charity and

Compaſſion

"Compaſſion to an unhappy "Stranger; whom, by a long "Chain of faithful Kindneſſes, "you have inſeparably bound to "acknowledge himſelf for ever,

Your moſt obliged Uſher,

F. HAMMOND.

Here the Muſe would needs offer me her Help in my Melancholy; and, as I walk'd along, dictated to me this ſhort Ode.

Oh Life! thou'rt nothing but a Sound,
A weak built Iſthmus that a while does riſe
Between two vaſt Eternities,
And then ſinks down, and can'ſt no more be found.
Alas! alas! in vain,
With all our Care and Pain,
We ſeek the tott'ring Fabrick to maintain.

Our utmoſt Acts are Nonſenſe all;
'Tis Nonſenſe all that we can do;
Through Paths unknown vaſt Trains of Ill purſue;
And Man, the Wretch, muſt undergo them all.
'Twas a ſad Truth ſpoke by the wiſeſt King,
That better is the Day of Death,
Than that black Day that gives us Breath.
Since nought below can any Comfort bring,
'Tis hard, methinks 'tis hard
That Man alone ſhould be debarr'd
Even from that Eaſe the Toils of Brutes Reward.
But ſtill 'tis Nonſenſe to complain,
'Tis better ſit and bite the Chain.
We muſt drudge through the Vale, and tamely go
Through the ſtrange diſmal Wilds and Labyrinths of Woe.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

He wanders into Buckinghamſhire; *is entertained by a worthy old Gentleman for his Curate; he preaches a ſingular Sermon upon Humility, the chief Heads of which he ſets down at large.*

WHEN I had diſpatched away the Meſſenger with the Note, and ſatisfied him to his Content for the Trouble he would be at, I thought it was beſt, for fear they ſhould endeavour to recover me, to take a by-way croſs the Country. I don't know how far I wandered the firſt Day, neither did I think it proper to aſk

Queſtions; however, I found myſelf at Night upon the Edge of *Buckinghamſhire*; where, at a poor Alehouſe in a ſmall Country Village, I took up my Station.

Whilſt I was ſadly reflecting upon the Family I had left, and entertaining myſelf with the diſmal Accounts of my own repeated Misfortunes, in came a Gentleman to enquire for Lodging, who pretended he came directly from *London*; amongſt other Things I aſked him the News. News, ſays he, Sir! why, good News, for all honeſt Gentlemen, and eſpecially for thoſe of your Coat; General *Monk* is upon a full March with his Army from *Scotland*, and the People begin to talk

talk publickly of the Reſtoration of the King.

This News pleaſed and diverted me, notwithſtanding the piercing Agonies I was under.

The Gentleman's Converſation, in general, was exceeding pleaſant and jocular; we eat and drank together, and indeed were forced to lie together too, the Houſe affording no more than one Bed, and that but a ſcurvy one neither; however, there was no Remedy, but we muſt take up with that or the Hay-mow; which, as it happened afterwards, had been the better Choice of the two. To make ſhort of the Matter, my Bedfellow proved a notorious Highwayman; and the very Day before had committed

ſeveral

ſeveral Robberies in the Road between *Dunſtable* and *Woburn*; and what was worſe, about four o'Clock in the Morning came a Conſtable with a Hue and Cry, and ſeized us both in our Beds.

My Companion, indeed, would willingly have cleared me, by alledging I was an abſolute Stranger to him, but Mr. Conſtable would not credit him, and ſo the next Morning we were both carried before a Magiſtrate; he was committed to *Ayleſbury* Goal, and I was remanded back to the Alehouſe, under a ſtrong Guard, with Orders to be ſecured for three or four Days, till the Perſons that were robbed had viewed me, to try if any of them could give any Evidence againſt me; but

nothing

nothing appearing, and my Innocence growing every Day more manifeſt, I was at laſt ſet at Liberty.

Being now delivered from this ſtrange Dilemma, which, notwithſtanding, had exhauſted all my Stock; Moneyleſs, Friendleſs and Diſconſolate, I wandered from one Place to another, till it began to draw towards Sun-ſet, and what to do for a little Food, and a Lodging, I could not imagine; lying in the Field was a diſmal Apprehenſion, and to venture into an Inn, without Money to pay my Reckoning, was as bad; but while I was thus ruminating upon my doleful Condition, I obſerved a Shepherd following his Flock not far from me, to whom

I made up, in order to enquire where I was, and what Gentlemen lived near.

The good old Man perceiving by my Looks and Geſture, I was a Perſon in diſtreſs, told me I was in the Vale of *Ayleſbury*, and that there were ſeveral Gentlemen in the Neighbourhood, but they were all *Oliverians*, and Commonwealths Men, and good for little; the only Gentleman (ſays he) that I know in this Part of the Country, is Mr. *H.* of *Abbots-Aſton*, a little Town about a Mile off, and he too has been ſo often plunder'd and harraſs'd ſince the War, and has a great Family beſide, that I'm afraid Things are not ſo well with him as they have been; however, I dare ſay (a Stranger,

and

and a Gentleman as you ſeem to be) if you think fit to call upon him, won't want Lodging, and Entertainment for a Night or ſo.

I thanked the honeſt Shepherd for his kind Inſtruction, and withal, reſolved to take his Advice, and indeed found every Thing be-beyond his Repreſentation. The worthy old Gentleman, upon the very firſt Recital of my Condition, with a decent Gentleman-like Freedom invited me in, and truly I was entertained by himſelf, and his Family, with ſo much friendly Civility, that I had hardly met with the like in the whole courſe of my Travels.

The next Morning, when I came to take my leave, he made me a ſmall preſent, and a Letter

to a neighbouring Clergyman, whom, he told me, if he was not very lately ſupplied, wanted an honeſt young Man for a Curate, and in all outward Appearance, I ſeemed to be a Perſon fit for his Turn.

One of his Sons did me the Favour to accompany me to the Gentleman's Houſe, who, after a ſhort Examination of my Orders, and other Credentials, was pleaſed to accept of me. We came to no fixt Agreement, further than that I was to have ten Shillings a Sunday, and ſtay with him till ſomething happened that might be more to my Advantage.

The next Sunday I was obliged to preach at one of his Churches, and as it is common in the Caſe of

a

a Stranger, I had a very large and conſiderable Auditory; the Subſtance of my Diſcourſe was upon Humility, which my Patron, that was preſent himſelf, was ſo well pleaſed and affected with, that he engaged me to write it out, and give him the Copy.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

Upon the Reſtoration of King Charles, *he leaves his Curacy, and goes to* London; *makes ſeveral unſucceſsful Attempts to get Preferment, and afterwards in a deep Diſcontent and Melancholy, leaves the Town, with a Reſolution to return into the Country in queſt of new Adventures.*

UPON the Delivery of the Copy of my Sermon, the worthy Gentleman made me a very handſom Preſent, and withal, was pleaſed (much beyond my Deſert) to commend the Happi-

neſs

neſs of my Expreſſions, the manlineſs of my Stile, and the Contexture of my Diſcourſe, and, moreover, directed me in my Methods of Study, and gave me a Catalogue of the Books that were moſt proper to be read to improve my Judgment, and ground me in the true Principles of the Doctrine of the Church of *England*.

In this happy State I paſſed ſeveral Months till the King's Reſtoration; and then, I thought, conſidering my Father had firſt ſpent his Eſtate, and afterwards ſacrificed his Life in the Service of the Crown, upon the Repreſentation of my Condition, I could not fail of getting ſome ſort of Preferment.

When

When I came to *London*, I found Multitudes in my own Circumſtances; abundance of worthy Gentlemen that had waſted their whole Fortunes in the King's Cauſe, and were now watching about Court for ſome kind of Buſineſs that might intitle them to a Subſiſtance in their declining Years.

For my own Part, I tried all the Methods that the Nature of my Caſe would bear, but all to no purpoſe. The King was adadviſed, it ſeems, to encourage and careſs his Enemies, and to depend upon the Generoſity of his Friends, which, as ſome about him told him, was a high Argument of Policy and Wiſdom; whether it was or not, I think

may

may be eaſily diſcerned from the future Succeſs of Things; but that's foreign to my purpoſe.

I ſtaid in Town, expecting the moving of the Waters, ſeven or eight Months, at leaſt, and, in the Interim had contracted an Acquaintance with ſeveral Gentlemen that came thither upon the ſame Errand; with one, eſpecially, who, above all the reſt, I perceived to be a Perſon of extraordinary Parts and Diſpoſition; with him I often met, and condoled the Misfortune of loyal Men, and could hardly refrain (among ourſelves) from making ſome Reflections upon our hard Uſage.

This Gentleman (as he told me) had ſpent eight hundred Pounds

Pounds *per annum*, in the Wars; and what was worſe, had a Wife and ſeveral Children in the Country, that muſt unavoidably fall into publick Extremity, if the King did not do ſomething for him. It would grieve and ſurprize a Man to hear him give a Relation of his Sufferings; and indeed it was a very melancholy and aſtoniſhing Proſpect, to ſee ſo many brave Men in a neglected ſtarving Condition, whilſt thoſe that had been the grand Inſtruments of the Rebellion, nay, in ſome meaſure, that had been actually engaged in the Murder of the King, advanced to conſiderable Places of Truſt and Profit.

In

In ſhort, I continued in this wretched State of Dependance till I had eat up all my Books, and worn out my Cloaths; and, after all, perceiving there was no good to be done at this ungrateful mercenary Court, I packed up the poor Remains of my Equipage, and reſolved once more to commit myſelf to the blind Guidance of my hard Stepmother *Fortune*; and, in the Morning, juſt before my Departure, in a deep and profound Melancholy, I writ the following eight Verſes, and left them ſealed up for my Friend.

Fly from this ſcurvy Town, all Courts deſpiſe,
And ne'er torment thy Soul with Thoughts to riſe.

Ne'er

Ne'er think thy Merits can Preferment get:
Firſt be a Knave and then thou may'ſt be great.
Virtue has no Prerogative at Court,
It only ſerves them there for Scorn or Sport.
The Fools and Villains riſe, the Loyal fall,
And the ſame rigid Fate ſeems to attend us all.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

He leaves London, *wanders into* Dorſetſhire, *takes upon him the Habit of a Shepherd, and gives an Account of ſeveral other Adventures that befel him.*

HAVING waited ſix tedious Months in a fruitleſs Dependance upon an ungrateful Court, I ſaw at laſt it was in vain to expect Preferment among them; Intereſt and Flattery, I perceived, carried all before them, and ſo I reſolved to ſteer back into the Country, to endeavour to find out ſome poor Employment that

might entitle me to Bread and Liberty.

I ſet forward from *London* the 20th of *March*, and the firſt Night wandered as far as *Uxbridge*, about fifteen Miles from *London*, without any conſiderable Adventure. I ſpent the Evening in a melancholy Contemplation upon the variety of Accidents and Calamities incident to human Life; and truly, upon the whole, was ready enough to conclude that Death was much preferable to it, unleſs it was upon the grand Account, as it is a State of Trial and Probation, for Immortality and Happineſs.

And indeed I cannot conceive (excepting the Aſſurance of the Immortality of our Souls) what

it

it is that can ſupport Men, and encourage them with ſo much Patience and Chearfulneſs, to undergo the ſeveral Turns and Revolutions of unconſtant Fortune, to ſubmit ſo tamely to be bandyed, like Tennis-Balls, to and fro, upon the Racquets of every croſs and malicious Accident, from Pain to Pleaſure, from Fulneſs to Want, from Honour to Infamy, and ſo back again, till the Game is played out, and then to return into eternal Silence and Inſenſibility.

With ſuch kind of Reflections I ſpent the Night, and the next Morning early I ſet forward again, bending my courſe ſtill Weſtward, reſolving not to make any Attempts for a Settlement, till I

had removed myſelf a conſiderable Diſtance from *London*.

The ſixth Day, at Night, upon enquiry, I found myſelf in *Dorſetſhire*; but found I was unhappily ſtraggled ſo far upon the Hills, that it was impoſſible for me to recover a Town to lodge at, before it was dark; and ſo I was forced to betake myſelf to the Shelter of one of the little Huts the Shepherds had thrown up in the Fields, to defend them from the Rain and Heat.

This unlucky Accident terrified and diſcontented me; however, I found there was no Remedy, but I muſt endure it; therefore laying my Satchel under my Head, for my Pillow, and putting myſelf in the beſt Poſture

I could contrive, to defend me from the cold, I laid me down upon one of the Seats, which was only Stones and Earth, covered with a Turf, and endeavoured to compoſe myſelf to reſt.

I know not how it came to paſs, whether it was my Wearineſs or Diſcontent, or both together, but betwixt them they threw me into a deep Sleep, which laſted till break of Day next Morning, and truly I was extreamly rejoiced I had paſt off a doleful Night with ſo much Eaſe and Safety.

The Lark was upon the Wing, ſinging her welcome to the Morning, before I turned out of my Earthen Habitation; and what was more, and indeed what I have often thought upon with the

higheſt and moſt profound Thankfulneſs and Admiration, notwithſtanding the Night was very cold, and the Wind blew exactly into the Mouth of the Cabin, I did not find myſelf in the leaſt afflicted or diſordered afterwards.

In my Paſſage over the Downs, I met ſeveral Shepherds trudging chearfully to their Folds; and indeed their Looks and Geſtures methought beſpoke ſo much honeſt Satisfaction, and true Content, that I could not forbear wiſhing myſelf in the ſame Condition. The more I reflected upon their harmleſs and inoffenſive Manner of Living, the more ſtill it ſeemed to pleaſe and delight me, till at laſt I grew ſo much affected, that I reſolved to uſe my utmoſt Endeavours

deavours to qualifie myſelf to undertake the Occupation of a Shepherd.

To fit myſelf for this odd Adventure, I perceived there were three Things to be done in courſe: *Firſt*, to provide me with a ſuitable Habit. *Secondly*, to inſtruct myſelf in the Methods of ordering the Sheep, and ſetting the Folds. And *Thirdly*, to find out ſome ſober, prudent Perſon for a Maſter, that had the Reputation of a Man of Honeſty and Senſe, and a good Governor of his Family.

As to the *firſt*, I went directly to *Dorcheſter*, and bought a coarſe Frock, and other Accoutrements, as near as I could remember, anſwerable to thoſe I obſerved

the Day before with the Shepherds; but then I was at a Loſs to contrive how to diſpoſe of my Satchel, and the Cloaths I pulled off; which, after a great many Thoughts and Reſolutions, I committed to the Protection of an hollow Tree.

Next to this, my Buſineſs was to find out a Means to get ſome general Inſtructions how to remove the Fold, and manage the Sheep; and truly, here I found there was no other Remedy, but applying myſelf to ſome honeſt Shepherd.

I took ſeveral Turns upon the Downs, before I could meet with a Swain, whoſe Face and Deportment ſpoke him fit for my Purpoſe. At laſt, having pitched upon

upon one whoſe Anſwers ſhewed him to have a little more Generoſity and Underſtanding than is common among ſuch illiterate People, I gave him a ſhort Account of my Condition to this Effect: "That I was a poor unfortunate young Man, out of all Manner of Buſineſs; that my Stock began to waſte apace; that I had a particular Deſire to fall into the Employ of a Shepherd, and ſhould be glad, for a Beginning, to accept of a Place, though never ſo inconſiderable, that would but defend me from publick Extremity."

The good Man, at the hearing of this, ſeemed mightily affected with my hard Circumſtances, and withal told me, it was almoſt im-

poſſible for a luſty young Man to want an Employment at that time of the Year; and, moreover, aſked me if I underſtood the Buſineſs of a Shepherd? Says he, there are ſeveral other things neceſſary to make a Man a compleat Shepherd, beſide following the Sheep and ſhifting the Fold, which I don't queſtion your Judgment in. But then the great Inconveniency of all is, your being an abſolute Stranger; ſo that, unleſs you can give a very good Account of yourſelf, you'll find it a difficult Matter to prevail with any body to take you into their Houſe.

I could not very well tell what to ſay to the honeſt Shepherd's Objection; but at laſt I told him, I was ſenſible my being a Stranger would

would conſequently be very prejudicial to me; but then I told him too, that I did not queſtion, if I could be once ſo happy to get a Place, but by my Diligence and Integrity, in a little time to recommend myſelf beyond Exception.

As for my own Part, ſays the Shepherd, I am fully ſatisfied; you have the Looks and Behaviour of an honeſt Man; and you may depend upon it, I will do my beſt to get you ſome Buſineſs; and therefore if you'll come to-morrow, and tend my Sheep, I'll go to ſome of the neighbouring Towns, and try what can be done.

I told him the only Buſineſs I was deſirous of at preſent, was a Shepherd's

Shepherd's Place, and if he could aſſiſt me in that Particular, I ſhould endeavour, by ſome Means or other, to make him amends. His Anſwer was very pertinent and unexpected, That without any Expectation of Reward, he had always a Pity for poor Men in Diſtreſs, eſpecially for thoſe that ſeemed to be honeſt, as I did. If you deceive me, ſays he, it is your Fault, you have a good Look; but if there be a Wolf within, who can help it? However, I'll expect you to-morrow; and in the mean time, I ſhall be ſure to have you in my Remembrance.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

He is entertained by a Shepherd as his Servant; he gives a diverting Relation of the Circumſtances of his Admiſſion, and the Manner of his Inſtructions, &c.

ACcording to our Appointment, I was with the Shepherd early next Morning, whom I found buſy in changing his Fold, and diſpoſing every thing in Order, that I might have nothing to do but juſt to follow the Sheep, and keep them from intermixing with other Flocks. He left me his Dog, his Scrip, and his Crook, with Orders to lead them to a par-

ticular

ticular Place upon an adjacent Plain, where (as he expreſſed it) he uſed to drive them to lare about Noon. The friendly Shepherd had no ſooner left me, but ſeveral of the Swains that belonged to the Downs came about me, being very inquiſitive to know who I was, and from whence I came, as it is their common Cuſtom, when a Stranger comes among them.

They aſk'd me ſeveral Queſtions, which, indeed, I was ſufficiently puzzled to get over; however, with a great deal of Difficulty, I blundered through moſt of them, being ſtill very cautious how I directed my Anſwers, apprehending, that if I ſhould miſtake their Dialect, or uſe any Terms that did

did not ſquare with their ruſtick way of expreſſing themſelves, I ſhould perhaps offer them ſome Occaſion of Suſpicion, which might conſequently ruin my future Deſign.

In ſhort, we had ſoon done with our Queſtions and Ceremonies, and in a little time began to grow as familiar and well acquainted as poſſible. My Buſineſs was to learn as many of their Calls and Whiſtles to their Sheep, and as much of their Language, as the time and Opportunity would permit; and truly, in three or four Hours (as I found afterwards) I had gathered up ſeveral of their moſt uſual Expreſſions.

About four the old Shepherd returned, and found me by the Flock,

Flock, leaning upon his Crook, a Poſture which I had obſerved very common among them. Well, honeſt Friend (ſaid he) I ſee you you are very diligent, and truly I han't been altogether idle neither. I'll tell you what I have done, and if you approve of it, and think good of my Propoſals, why then the Buſineſs is over.

He told me he had udertaken for twenty Shillings a Month to tend 'Squire *Wright*'s Sheep till *Michaelmas*, and that he would give me two Shillings *per* Week Meat and Lodging, and I ſhould look after one of the Flocks, till I could find out a Place that would be more advantageous to me.

I was much affected with the generous Offer of the honeſt old Man,

Man, and told him, I ſhould never trouble myſelf to ſeek after any other Place, but did joyfully accept of his Propoſals, and ſhould do my beſt to diſcharge my Buſineſs, and be always ready to ſignify how much I was obliged to him for his generous Offer.

Without more a-do, it was agreed I ſhould go home with him, and ſtay there till *Monday*, when he was to take the 'Squire's Flock into his Cuſtody.

I need not tell you how exactly all theſe Circumſtances fell out to my Wiſh. In theſe three or four Days Interval, I had Opportunity to equip myſelf with Inſtructions requiſite to carry on my Deſign; which would have been almoſt impoſſible for me without

without. About ſeven we put the Sheep into the Fold; and ſo, with as much ſatisfaction as the Nature of my Caſe would bear, I trudged joyfully Home with my honeſt Maſter.

When we came home, the good Woman was at firſt a little ſurprized, to ſee her Huſband bring in a Stranger; but that was ſoon over, by his telling her the Subſtance of our Agreement. Upon which ſhe bid me welcome; and the next Thing in courſe was the Supper: which was put upon the Table in about half an Hour after we came into the Houſe; it was a good cleanly Diſh of Bacon and Carrots; which I eat with as much Content as if I had been at the greateſt Entertainment.

While

While we were at Supper, in came the Son, and a Boy that drove the Plow, whom it ſeems had been in the Field a ſowing of Barley, a little later than ordinary: At the Table his Father gave him an Account of our Proceedings. The young Man ſeemed at firſt to make ſome Objections againſt them, but his Father ſoon over-ruled; and ſo every Thing was adjuſted beyond Expectation. After Supper, the young Man took down a Book, as it was cuſtomary, and read divers Pages in it: I have forgot the Title of it now; but I remember it was one that was writ by a Preſbyterian Preacher, for the uſe of Country Families; and contained little in it beſides Enthuſiaſm and Nonſence.

This

This was the moſt ungrateful Scene in the whole Adventure: However, I did not think it proper for me, as Matters ſtood, to make any Remarks; and yet when I obſerved how zealouſly the Fellow read, and how intent his Father and Mother were to him, I had much a-do to contain myſelf.

The next Thing was, whether I could read or no? Yes, I told them, I could. The old Man would not be ſatisfied till he had heard me; and ſo I took a Bible that lay upon a Shelf, at the End of the Table, and read two Chapters in the *Lamentations* of *Jeremiah*, but withal, was forced to change my Voice, and alter my Pronunciation, that I

that

that I might come a little near to their Country Tone.

I'll warrant you, ſays the old Man, you can write and caſt Accounts too: I told him I could do a little of both. *Samuel*, ſays he to his Son, *Frank* will aſſiſt you: When I firſt caſt my Eye upon him on the Downs, I durſt have ſwore, by his Behaviour, he was well bred: Come, Wife, ſays he, I think we ſhould not make a Bargain with dry Lips; give us a Jug of the beſt Beer.

I cannot recollect every particular Occurrence that paſt, but this I remember, that we had two or three large Jugs of very ſtrong well-brewed Ale; that both the Mother and her Son ſpoke very pleaſantly and freely to me, and told

told me, tho' I was a Stranger, they liked me ſo well, that they would be helpful to me in any thing that lay in their power.

About nine we went to Bed; but I ſhould have told you, in the firſt place, that the old Man lived on his own Eſtate, which was about twenty Pounds *per annum*; and that the Sheep he looked after were all his own; and that he approved a Shepherd's Life beyond any other; and therefore made it his Choice to tend his Flock himſelf, being indeed a little lame, and not ſo well qualified to undertake any laborious Buſineſs.

In the Morning between four and five, the old Man roſe and called the reſt of the Family; he

he put ſome Victuals in his Scrip, and ſome Drink in his Bottle, and then proceeded to his Fold. I went along with him, obſerving all his Motions very narrowly, that I might get what Inſtructions I could againſt *Monday*; and truly, barring their ſhearing and tagging, and ſome ſuch kind of Buſineſs, I found myſelf as well qualified as the beſt Shepherd of them all.

Upon *Monday* the old Man committed his own Flock to my Charge, being betwixt two and three Hundred; and I was extremely vigilant to govern them according to his Method and Preſcription.

In a little time I grew acquainted with ſeveral of the Shepherds, and

and indeed had ſoon made myſelf an exact Maſter of the whole Profeſſion. The Buſineſs grew very eaſy and delightful to me too, and the manner of Life was ſo inoffenſive in itſelf, that I began to think it one of the moſt quiet and comfortable States that ever I was in.

The next thing now was to recover my Books, and to diſpoſe of them ſo that there might be no Diſcovery. I found I had abundance of Time upon my Hands, which I could hardly paſs away without their Help; and therefore I reſolved, by ſome means or other, to fetch them out of the Cuſtody of the hollow Tree, to ſome Place nearer to me.

In

In order to which I thought it moſt proper to tell my Dame, that I had ſome Linen, and other Neceſſaries, that lay upon the Road till I called for them, and that (with my Maſter's Permiſſion) would go in a Day or two and fetch them; but then I wanted a Box to lock them up in, which ſhe procured for me, and ſo the next Day I fetched home my Satchel, and conveyed my Books privately into the Box.

Every thing being thus diſpoſed off and ſettled, my next Buſineſs was to think upon a Method how I might paſs away the ſpare Hours I had upon the Downs, with the moſt Advantage. I foreſaw, if I ſuffered the Shepherds to come to a cloſe Familiarity, their Con-

verſation would ſoon grow burdenſom; and therefore thought it proper to carry myſelf with a little more Reſervedneſs than uſual, that I might by no means give them Encouragement.

I found that the toilſom Part of a Shepherd's Buſineſs did not commonly take up above two Hours of the Day, and that all the reſt I had nothing to do but to walk about after the Sheep, the only inconvenience that I perceived in a Shepherd's Life: However, to fence againſt this as well as I could, I applied myſelf to my Books, and my Meditations, till at length I had drawn all my Affairs into ſuch a regular Poſture, that I muſt needs ſay, I was never in a more perfect

perfect and compleat State of quiet and ſatisfaction in the whole Courſe of my Life.

The old Shepherd was a very diſcreet Man, and an excellent Governor of his Family; and indeed both his Wife and his Son, extreamly good natured and inoffenſive: The only Objection I had againſt them, was, that the miſchievous Times had ſpiced them with Fanatical and Commonwealth Principles; but thoſe too in a little Time I convinced them of, and withal perſuaded them againſt the Preſbyterian's Book the Son uſed to read in before Bed-time, and introduced, in the Room of it, the King's Meditations in his Confinement: At laſt, I had wrought

upon them ſo far by gentle Arguments and Admonitions, that they admitted of the Common-Prayer-book, and particularly they gave me leave to read the Litany, as I did conſtantly every Night during my ſtay among them.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

He entertains himſelf with ſome ſhort Reflections upon his preſent Condition, and writes a Letter of Advice to his Brother in London.

NOtwithſtanding I had fixed myſelf in my Shepherd's State, with as much Eaſe and Advantage as it was poſſible for me to imagine, yet ſtill I could not reſign myſelf ſo effectually, but now and then ſome melancholy Reflections would break in upon me. Indeed I did my utmoſt to fence againſt them, but

for all that, I could not ſo entirely vanquiſh the Defects of human Nature, but I muſt often be ſadly ruminating upon my former and preſent Condition.

The utter Ruin and Deſtruction of my Family, was a very heavy and piercing Conſideration: And what was worſe, I could not apprehend the leaſt Proſpect of a Poſſibility to retrieve it; and then again, the hard Circumſtances, and ſevere Uſage I had been encountered with, ſince my cruel Step-mother *Fortune*, firſt drove me into the wide World to ſhift for myſelf, were very ſharp and grievous Aggravations; to find myſelf deſtitute of all Manner of Friends and Relations, ſlighted and rejected by thoſe that had promiſed

promiſed me, and indeed, were in point of Honour, Juſtice and Gratitude, obliged to aſſiſt me; to find myſelf ſunk to the loweſt Ebb of Life, the mean Condition of a Shepherd; and what was the moſt tormenting Conſideration of all, in a great Meaſure deprived of the Advantages of Books, Study and Converſation, were ſuch embittering, cruel Reflections, that I was very often, I muſt own, unable to bear under them.

As to my Shepherd's State, it was truly the beſt that could be of that kind; and indeed the melancholy Opportunities ſuited ſo well with my Inclinations, and the fixed averſion I had taken againſt the World, together, that they had almoſt perſuaded me to

reſolve to make my Way through the Briers and Thorns of human Life in that ſame Capacity.

But to go on with my Account: After I had fixed myſelf, in all reſpects, according to my former Relation, I thought now it was high time to write to *London*, to deliver my Friends from thoſe Doubts and Apprehenſions which I knew my private Departure muſt neceſſarily occaſion. We had every Day Carriers travelling over the Downs for *London*: So that I had Conveniency enough, by that means, to ſend my Letters with as much Privacy as I pleaſed. The firſt I ſent was to my Brother, that, by the Aſſiſtance of ſome Friends, was placed with an At-

torney

torney of *Staple's-Inn* in *Holborn*; and was in effect as follows.

His Letter of Advice to his Brother.

My dear Alexander,

'I Know my haſty and private 'Departure from *London*, muſt 'neceſſarily occaſion the Appre-'henſion of ſome, and the Sur-'prize of moſt of my Acquaint-'ance. As for your own part, I 'am very ſenſible you muſt have 'been particularly affected; but 'by this you will ſee I am among 'the Living however; and I tell 'you, in a far better Capacity of 'Eaſe and Satisfaction than that 'ſcurvy Town you are doom'd to 'inhabit can afford me: Where 'I am, or what I am about, is 'no great Matter, only this you

'may depend upon, I am doing
'nothing that's unjuſt: I am in
'purſuit of a quiet Life, where I
'may breathe with Freedom, and
'get a little Food and Raiment,
'which is all I want or wiſh,
'without being expoſed to the
'Perplexities and Hurries, the
'Cheats and Underminings of a
'baſe mercenary World; and this
'you may tell my Friends, if I
'have any that think me worth
'their Enquiry: And, now I am
'writing, I conjure you not to
'take it ill, if, from the trueſt
'Dictates of brotherly Friendſhip,
'I ſend you a few haſty Admo-
'nitions; I am confident, if they
'do you no good they can do you
'no harm, and ſo, at worſt, you
'muſt

'muſt look upon them as a well-
'intended Impertinence.

'Firſt then, I caution you as a
'Brother and a Friend, not to
'diſquiet and torment yourſelf
'about the Succeſs of Things; do
'but your Duty, and let God diſ-
'poſe of your Affairs as he thinks
'fit; if you diſturb yourſelf
'ever ſo much, you can never re-
'medy their Courſe, but, like a
'wild Beaſt in a Net, the more
'you ſtruggle and flounce, the
'more ſtill you entangle yourſelf,
'and, at laſt, perhaps, will ham-
'per yourſelf ſo effectually, that
'you are never to be extricated
'afterwards.

'You are of a good Family, it
'is true; but then don't let the
'Notion of that make you haughty

'or

'or ill-natured; it is your Virtue 'and Modeſty that will give the 'richeſt Tincture to your Blood, 'and will ſtamp a Character upon 'your Name large as your Wiſh, 'and laſting as the World.

'Let the Honour of our Family 'be a *Memento* to you againſt all 'vicious Actions, and be con-'ſtantly in your View, to deter 'you from any thing that is either 'baſe or mercenary, or can give 'the leaſt Stain to the Reputation 'of our worthy Anceſtors.

'I have already read you ſeve-'ral Lectures upon the Vices and 'Follies of the Town, which I 'hope you have forgot; and I 'muſt tell you again, that it will 'require your utmoſt Caution and

'Defence

'Defence to guard yourſelf againſt 'them.

'There you will be expoſed to 'all Degrees of Villainy and Vice, 'to Cheats and Proſtitutes, to 'Knaves, Bullies and Sharpers, 'in almoſt all Conditions and Ca-'pacities. You will find, my 'dear *Alexander*, in that lewd 'Town whither your unhappy 'Circumſtances have drawn you, 'little elſe but Herds of wild 'Beaſts and Monſters; ſo that if 'you ſhould ever be ſo unlucky to 'neglect your grand Defence, I 'mean your Virtue, they will be 'ſure to attack you upon the firſt 'Diſcovery, in your unguarded 'Part; and then it is the greateſt 'odds but they wound you mor-'tally.

'As

'As to the Law, the Buſineſs 'that you are confined to march 'through your Life in, it is, in 'itſelf, a very honeſt and reputable 'Profeſſion; but then it is ſo 'ſtrangely corrupted, by cunning 'Wiles and Tricks, by Covetouſ-'neſs, Bribery, Extortion, and 'ſiniſter Ends, that there is but 'little of its native Deſign to be 'diſcovered.

'I know you will pardon 'your Brother, if he ſhould by 'chance ſay any thing that does 'not ſo exactly ſuit your Temper 'and Inclination, and under that 'Notion I will venture to caution 'you of one thing, which indeed 'I cannot mention without Diſ-'ſatisfaction; don't let the furious 'Deſire of getting Money diſtort

'you

'you from your proper Frame,
'or urge you upon any unjuſt or
'irregular Practice; and take this
'along with you too, that one
'Penny well got, will do you
'more good in the end than a
'Million otherwiſe.

'I muſt commend indeed your
'generous Reſolution to attempt
'the Recovery of the ancient
'Seat of our Family, but yet I
'would not have it purchaſed at
'the dear Price of Fraud or
'Avarice; I have obſerved you
'with the deepeſt Diſcontent in
'my Judgment, too fierce and
'eager in the perſuit of Advantage;
'but do not let the dangerous
'Diſtemper grow too far upon
'you, leaſt at length it get the

'Maſter-

'Maſterſhip, and ſo make you a 'Wretch in both Worlds.

'As to your Religion, I am 'ſure you are well principled, I 'have heard you give a very 'good Account of the Articles 'of Faith, and Doctrines of 'our Church, and let thoſe be 'your Guides to conduct you 'through all the Labyrinths and 'Turns of Life.

'For Loyalty, it was a Prin-'ciple our Father lived and died 'in, it coſt him both his Eſtate 'and his Life, it was the Cauſe 'of the Deſtruction of his Fa-'mily, and has driven you and 'I naked and defenceleſs into an 'ungrateful World, but what 'then? He did no more than 'his Duty, and the Laws of 'God

'God and Nature required; he 'fell a Martyr to a glorious Cauſe, 'and left a laſting Character of 'his fidelity to his Prince behind 'him, which I hope both you 'and I ſhall do our beſt to pre-'ſerve to ourſelves, and then 'awfully deliver the ſacred De-'poſitum to be religiouſly handed 'down to his Poſterity.

'For your Converſation I have 'often cautioned you to have a 'ſpecial Regard to that; our 'Companions are a ſort of Look-'ing-Glaſſes to us, by which 'we dreſs ourſelves and ſhape 'our Actions and Behaviour; ſo 'that if the Mirror be falſe the 'Garb and Equipage will conſe-'quently be wrong put on: And 'then be they never ſo rich and

'coſtly

'coſtly we make but an aukward 'taudry Figure.

'Beware of contracting a ſud-'den Familiarity with Strangers, 'or plunging yourſelf at a Ven-'ture into mixed Societies. A 'few Acquaintances, and a few 'Books, provided they are both 'true, are enough; and if they 'are not they are too many, you 'will find the forming a proper 'Converſation to be one of the 'higheſt Indications of a prudent 'Perſon, and if you miſtake in 'that you will find it will be a 'difficult Matter, for you, to 'manage yourſelf in *London*.

'Your Education and Diver-'ſion will require a great deal 'of Circumſpection; the one 'ſhould be neither formal nor

'pedantic,

'pedantic, nor the other lewd
'or extravagant; but they ſhould
'be both genteel and uſeful, and
'adapted entirely to the comfort
'and quiet, or the Advantage of
'human Life.

'I will not trouble you any
'more now, but reſerve the reſt
'of my Admonitions till another
'Opportunity; as for my own
'Part, I am accidentally fallen
'into a bye Corner of the World,
'where if ſome ſpiteful Accident
'does not remove me, I intend
'to fix my *non Ultra*. Great-
'neſs I deſpiſe and abhor, next
'the Falſhoods and Flatteries of
'the Court; the Town I abo-
'minate too, and truly am heartily
'ſorry your hard Fate has con-
'fined you to it. Bread and

'Liberty

'Liberty I have, and the plenti-
'ful Opportunity of wholeſom
'Air, and innocent Company.
'I want nothing but a little Li-
'brary and one learned Friend,
'upon whom I could depend for
'Advice and Aſſiſtance: And
'were theſe enſured to me for
'Life, I would freely quit all
'future Pretenſions. Let all my
'Friends know I ſend them my
'Prayers and Love; take a double
'Portion of them to yourſelf, and
'believe me to be in all Capaci-
'ties, your affectionate Friend
'and Brother.

F. HAMMOND.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

He writes a Letter to a Friend in London; *wherein he makes paſſionate Reflections upon the Town and Court, and gives a further Account of a Shepherd's Life.*

Dear Captain,

'MY ſudden Departure from *London*, I perceive, has 'been the Subject of no ſmall Re-'flection among my Friends; 'but why they ſhould be ſo much 'ſurprized and concerned at it, 'I cannot imagine. Indeed I am 'as much at a ſtand, what it can 'be that can influence them to 'undergo, ſo long, the Dins and

'Im-

'Impertinencies, the Dangers and 'Diſappointments, and the con-'tagious Stinks and Smoaks of a 'fulſom beaſtly Town. I know 'the Pretence is Preferment from 'Court, but why they ſhould be 'ſo blinded to expect any thing 'from thence, I profeſs is a greater 'Myſtery to me than either of 'the former.

'A Man with half an Eye may 'eaſily ſee which way the Game 'is like to go, Knavery and Hy-'pocriſy are the two only thriving 'Qualifications at Court, and 'poor paſſive Loyalty is doom'd 'to Rags and Contempt, or to 'ſubſiſt upon its own primitive 'Excellence.

'Alas! my Friend, Virtue has 'utterly loſt her Prerogative, and

'unleſs

'unleſs ſhe will condeſcend ſo
'low to ſneak and cringe to the
'Knave and the Fool, ſhe may
'periſh at Court; and who but
'a Coward or a Natural can ſtand
'by with Patience and ſee her
'ſtarving to Death?

'I proteſt I ſtayed ſhivering
'upon the Brink of the Waters
'as long as I was able, and there
'I might have ſtayed till Doomſ-
'day before any body would have
'puſhed me in, unleſs a deceitful
'Look, or a falſe Promiſe would
'have done it.

'But, Thanks to Providence,
'I am removed out of the Verge
'of your ungrateful Court, and
'the Noiſe and Filth of your
'Town. Where I am, or in
'what Poſt, is nothing to the

'pur-

'purpoſe; I live and enjoy Bread,
'and Retirement, and what I
'value equal to them both, I am
'removed not only out of the
'Reach, but even from the Pain
'of expecting any Manner of
'Greatneſs or Preferment.

'It is true I ought to have
'taken my leave of you and ſome
'other Friends, but indeed my
'Diſtemper was grown ſo hectic,
'I could not ſtay to do it. You
'are the only Man that know the
'true State of my Condition, and
'therefore I think I muſt de-
'pend upon you to get me ex-
'cuſed.

'Since my Abſence, I have
'compoſed a few ſhort Eſſays,
'upon the Calamities of human
'Life, which I intend to trouble

'you

'you with, as ſoon as I have 'time to write them out; in 'the mean time by virtue of 'our Friendſhip, let me adviſe 'you to remove yourſelf from 'Court, with the firſt Opportu-'nity: It is a dangerous Place; 'and if you venture to ſtay long 'there, it is ten to one but you 'will have Cauſe to repent it when 'it is too late; in my next, you 'may expect a more particular 'Account, from your true Friend 'and Fellow-ſufferer.

F. HAMMOND.

To return to my former Narrative: I kept my Shepherd's poſt about five Months, in which Time I had ſo effectually learnt

the whole Myſtery, that, as the general Report of me went, I was one of the beſt Shepherds upon the Down; my honeſt Maſter was extreamly obliging and courteous to me, and ſo indeed was his Wife and his Son; nay, the whole Village behaved themſelves to me, with a Reſpect and Diſtance, as I thought, much beyond what they did to other Shepherds.

But ſtill my unlucky Fate purſued me; my Induſtry among the Shepherds, in teaching them to read, and reprimanding them as often as I found them in any manner of Vice, or Irregularity, had not only gained me a ſort of Reſpect among themſelves, but likewiſe urged them much beyond

yond my Deſert, to ſpread my Character all about the Neighbourhood.

'Squire *Wright* it ſeems had heard of me among the reſt, and nothing would ſerve his Turn, but I muſt needs come to him. The innocent old Man my Maſter was apprehenſive, at firſt, it was only to hire me for his Shepherd, and ſo made abundance of Excuſes and Objections againſt it, but all to no Purpoſe. Within a Day comes the Bailiff with poſitive Orders, that he and his Man *Frank* muſt come next *Sunday*, to the Hall, to Dinner.

In the Interim I diſcovered, by one of the Shepherds, that the common Cenſures and Conjectures concerning me run very high;

ſome were of Opinion that I was a *Jeſuit* in Maſquerade, and come down into the Country for a Spy; others, that I was ſome diſcontented Perſon, or one that ſome Croſſes or Diſappointments had driven out of my own Country, and that I had taken upon me the Buſineſs of a Shepherd, the better to keep myſelf concealed. The 'Squire and his Family were of Opinion that I was a Gentleman in diſguiſe, and had taken up a Shepherd's Habit, purely to gratify a Curioſity, or a Humour, which was ſtrongly confirmed to them by the Report the Shepherds made, that I was often obſerved to deſire to be by myſelf, where I might Write, Read and Meditate with the leſſer Diſturbance;

bance; which I ſuppoſe was the Cauſe that made them ſo earneſt to ſee me, that they might attempt to learn who I was, and upon what Account I came into *Dorſetſhire*. All this the old Shepherd at laſt knew well enough, and yet never once mentioned it to me, nor ſuffered his Son or his Wife to take the leaſt Notice.

In ſhort, I found this was no abiding Place for me; if I ſtayed here, I foreſaw it would be impoſſible for me to eſcape, being diſcovered, which I was reſolved to prevent at all Hazards: But then the next Conſideration was how I ſhould bring it about, and at the ſame Time acquit myſelf handſomly and fairly, to the

honeſt Shepherd and his Family. In order to which I could think of no better expedient, than to pretend ſome accidental Buſineſs at *Dorcheſter*, which would require me to be there for a Day at leaſt. The old Man readily complied with my Requeſt in this Particular, and withal offered me one of his Horſes, to carry me thither; which I declined: However, he told me his Son ſhould tend my Sheep in my abſence.

Having thus far ſettled the manner of my Departure, the next Thing was how to convey away my Satchel, Books, &c. Which was no other way to be effected, but by waiting an Opportunity when all the Family was gone abroad; and then taking

ing them out, and putting them in a ſecret Place at a convenient Diſtance from the Houſe. This happened to my Wiſh, and upon *Friday* Morning I ſet out, and when I had recovered my Satchel, inſtead of *Dorcheſter* I directed my Courſe for *Shaftſbury*.

I need not tell you what a Conteſt I had in my Mind upon the Reſignation of my Shepherd's Profeſſion. The friendly Entertainment I had received from the good old Man and his Family, pierced me to the Soul, inſomuch that I was ſometimes almoſt reſolved to return and venture a Diſcovery; and I believe I had done it too, if it had not been upon the Account of ſome Re-

lations I had in the County, to whom notwithſtanding their Unkindneſs (indeed I might ſay Injuſtice) I was loth to give Occaſion of Scandal or Reflection.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

He having left the Shepherd, goes to Shaftſbury, *from whence he writes two Letters, one to his Maſter the Shepherd, and another to 'Squire* Wright. *His Uncle dies and leaves him a large Fortune.*

ABOUT twelve o'Clock I reached *Shaftſbury*, which, as I was informed, was nine Miles from my former Habitation. To prevent Diſcoveries I had diſrobed myſelf of my Shepherd's Habit, and put on that I came from *London* in, but it was ſo rumpled and diſordered by being crammed up ſo long together in my Satchel,

that I looked ſo very particular that I was both afraid and aſhamed to go into the Town with it; however, I got into a little Ale-houſe, as far out of all Obſervation as I could, and after I had refreſhed myſelf, purſuant to my Reſolution upon my Walk, I writ the following Letters.

His Letter to his Maſter.

Good Maſter,

'THIS comes to inform you 'I have quitted your Service, 'but not out of any Diſlike to you 'or your Family. I muſt own 'you have uſed me with the 'higheſt Friendſhip and Civility, 'the Remembrance of which I 'ſhall preſerve with the greateſt 'Solemnity through every Capa-

'city.

'city. I need not tell you the 'Cauſe that forced me to leave 'you privately, you are ſenſible of 'that already; but why your 'Neighbours ſhould grow ſo very 'inquiſitive to know what I am, 'which is a Secret that, at pre-'ſent, I don't think convenient 'to diſcover, that I cannot con-'ceive; but, for their better Sa-'tisfaction, you may tell them I 'am no Jeſuit in Maſquerade, nor 'a Perſon that has run his Coun-'try for Debt, but an unfortunate 'young Man, that a great many 'unhappy Accidents, and ſeveral 'croſs Turns of Fortune, have 'driven into this Part of the 'Kingdom. I may live to ſee 'you again; but, if I never 'ſhould, I hope you will not

'forget

'forget the Inſtructions your poor
'Servant left you; I mean thoſe
'in particular relating to your Re-
'ligion and the Government of
'your Family. As to the Ru-
'bric of the Church of *England*,
'I have ſo well inſtructed your
'Son in it, that I hope it will be
'needleſs now to put him in
'mind of our Method, *viz.* to
'read the Pſalms and Chapters
'for the Day every Night, with the
'Litany, and ſome other proper
'Collects which I have marked in
'your Common-Prayer Book:
'You will excuſe me, I preſume,
'that I did not formally take my
'leave of you, and attribute the
'Reaſon of it to ſome ſecret
'Cauſe. Pray all poſſible Thanks
'and Service to my good Miſtreſs

'and

'and her Son; and, in return for
'all your Kindneſs and Civility,
'accept the Prayers and Acknow-
'ledgments of

Your faithful Servant,

Shaftſbury,
Aug. 27. F. HAMMOND.

His Letter to Thomas Wright, *Eſq;*

SIR,

'IT ſeems the Character of an
'unfortunate Shepherd has
'ſpread itſelf as far as your Fa-
'mily; poor *Frank* is become
'the common Talk of the
'Country; ſome cenſure him,
'others judge and condemn him,
'and every body miſtakes him;

'ſo

'ſo that to be out of the general 'Clamour, he is conſtrained to 'withdraw himſelf from the Ser-'vice of a moſt honeſt worthy 'Maſter. Who and what he is 'is the grand Query. Some will 'have him a Jeſuit; ſome a 'Cheat, others an Humouriſt, 'when, in ſhort, he is nothing 'elſe but the neglected Offspring 'of a deceaſed Cavalier, whom a 'Conjunction of croſs Circum-'ſtances have bandied about in 'the queſt of Bread. I know, 'Sir, my private Departure will 'inflame the Reports, and per-'haps may occaſion ſome Re-'flections upon my Maſter; that 'indeed I would prevent at any 'Hazard, and rather than he 'ſhall ſuffer the leaſt Injury, not-'withſtanding

'withſtanding my ſolemn Reſolu-
'tions to the contrary, will diſ-
'cover myſelf to your Worſhip.
'Sir, I beſeech you to pardon
'this inſolent Trouble from an
'unfortunate Stranger, that, with
'the utmoſt Diſtance and Submiſ-
'ſion, ſubſcribes himſelf

Shaftſbury,
Aug. 27. F. HAMMOND.'

As ſoon as I had diſpatched away theſe Letters, I took up a Newspaper that lay before me, and the firſt thing I caſt my Eye upon was the following Advertiſement:

If Francis Hammond, *Son of the late Colonel* George Hammond, *who died in the Year* 1651 *of a Wound*

Wound he received at the Battle of Worceſter, *be living, and will apply to Mr.* James Thornton, *Attorney at Law in* Clement's-Inn, *he may hear of ſomething greatly to his Advantage.*

Upon reading this Advertiſement, I reſolved to ſet out for *London* immediately; and diſcharging my Reckoning, I bent my Courſe that way with all the Expedition I was able, and arrived there on the third Day after my ſetting out. The next Day I made it my Buſineſs to enquire after Mr. *Thornton*, whom I eaſily found; and being introduced to him, aſked him if the Advertiſement relating to one *Francis Hammond*, was inſerted in the Papers by

by his Direction? Upon receiving an Anſwer in the Affirmative, I told him I was that Perſon. I am very glad of it, replied he, as I can aſſure you a Fortune of no leſs than twenty thouſand Pounds has been left you. By whom, anſwered I? By your Uncle *Jervis Hammond*, rejoined he, who for many Years lived at *Bengal*, and who, by an honeſt and laudable Induſtry there, accumulated that Wealth which he has now left to you. About ſix Months ago he came to *England*, with a view, as he ſaid, to ſettle here, and to take you and your Brother into his Protection. You was not to be found, though every poſſible Method was made uſe of for that Purpoſe. Your Brother, alas!

did

did not long enjoy his good Fortune, for he died within a Month after his Uncle's Arrival. Your Uncle followed him about four Months after, leaving you, if living, his whole and ſole Executor of all his Eſtate, both real and perſonal. But if Proof could be brought of your Death, his Fortune was then to be diſpoſed of in certain charitable Uſes, which he enumerates in his Will. And now, young Gentleman, ſaid he, we have nothing to do but take ſuch Steps as are neceſſary to put you in Poſſeſſion of your good Fortune.

To paſs over the ſeveral Formalities of the Law, in a few Days I found myſelf Maſter of a Fortune exceeding my utmoſt Wiſhes.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

He rides out to Ware, *and in his Return home meets with an extraordinary Adventure upon the Road.*

NOT long after this as ſudden as unexpected Turn in my Affairs, it was my Fortune to have ſome Buſineſs that called me to *Ware*; and in my Return home the next Morning, in Company of two Friends who had accompanied me thither, we happened to ſee a young Woman, in no mean Habit, ſitting under the Shadow of a ſpreading Tree that grew on the Road-ſide, betwixt

Enfield

Enfield and *Edmonton*. The melancholy Posture she was in, incited my Curiosity to stop my Career, that I might learn of the Lady why she made Choice of so dusty a Place to repose herself in; and yet this Sight had not Influence enough on my two Companions to make them halt, or to concern themselves about her; but calling, Away, away, they spurred on and left me. I coming nearer, perceived her to be weeping, though she strove as much as she could to conceal it; which obliged me to change the merry Compliment I had designed to accost her with, into a more serious Address, desiring, with great Earnestness, to know if she had suffered any Misfortune, or that any one

one had offered her an Injury; proteſting I would very zealouſly endeavour to ſerve her to the utmoſt of my Power. The Lady returning me Thanks for my Civility, aſſured me that nothing of that had happened to her in her Journey; and added, that no Inconvenience attending her could be of ſo great Moment as to make me loſe my Company for an Enquiry after it. I thinking to divert her, told her chearfully, that I was a profeſſed Knight-Errant, and never thought myſelf ſo well employed as in the Service of diſtreſſed Ladies; and though I was not willing to be too officious and impertinent, yet could not forbear preſſing to know the Cauſe of her Trouble. The young Lady, who

was

was yet hardly able to reſtrain the Current of her Tears, endeavoured to perſuade me not to be ſo inquiſitive after that which would give me very little Pleaſure to know; but finding ſhe could not put me off with any Excuſes, and that ſhe was ſtill urged, tho' with great Civility by me, to ſatisfy my Curioſity, ſhe confeſſed that it was chiefly her Wearineſs had put her into that Diſorder, having indiſcreetly undertaken a tedious Journey, which ſhe doubted ſhe was not able to perform.

By this time, I had alighted from my Horſe, and ſitting down by her, began to ſhew a Concern for her Trouble, with a Zeal to be aſſiſting to her; and deſired to know the Name of the

Place

Place to which ſhe was going. She told me it was about four or five Miles off *Cambridge*. This, I ſaid, was but a ſmall Journey, and needed not ſo much to diſcourage her; ſince ſhe might very eaſily be ſet down there by Night; and aſked where her Horſes, or Coach ſtaid for her? She renewing her Tears, owned that ſhe was on Foot, and had ſo come from *London* that Morning.

I could not comprehend the Myſtery of what I heard and ſaw; for after a careful Survey of the Lady, I was amazed to think, why ſo fine a young Woman, of ſuch a genteel Appearance, and in that Condition ſhe ſeemed to be, which was big with

with Child, ſhould venture ſo far on Foot. But gueſſing that my Service to help her on her Journey, might be more acceptable, than to detain her longer in that Place with unneceſſary Queſtions; I put her in Mind of the Danger of ſitting there on the cold Ground, and adviſed her to be walking forwards, offering her my Hand to conduct her as far as *Enfield*. This Offer ſhe would have refuſed, begging me to remember my Company were gone the other Way: But I perſiſted to wait on her, leading her along the Road; and as thus we walked, I could not but admire her diſcreet Anſwers to the ſeveral Queſtions I made her, and the graceful Manner with which ſhe expreſſed herſelf,

herſelf, which raiſed in me a greater Deſire to underſtand more of her Condition.

When we came to an Inn in the Town, I left her a while to repoſe herſelf, and after diſcourſing the Maſter of it, ordered a handſom Pillion to be fixed on my Horſe, which was a ſtout Gelding, and an eaſy Pacer; then ſtepping in to the young Lady, after we had taken a ſmall Bait, I acquainted her with the ſorry Shift I had thought of, to convey her two or three Miles on her Way, there being no better Convenience to be had for her in that Place, which I entreated her to accept. Fain would the young Lady have diſſuaded me from giving ſo great Trouble to myſelf,

alledging a thouſand Reaſons againſt it, and concluded with the Danger of being ſo found by any of her Huſband's Acquaintance, in a Stranger's Company: I aſſured her, that though I was unknown to her, yet my Intentions were very honourable, for all my End was but to do her this ſmall Service, which I hoped could bring no manner of Blemiſh on her Reputation; and as for my own Part, I had no Apprehenſions of Danger that could befall me. With theſe Arguments ſhe was at laſt prevailed with, to be lifted up behind me; ſo on we rode for *Waltham-Croſs*.

Having this Opportunity of talking to the Lady, I ſtrove to divert

divert her Melancholy; and ſhe alſo herſelf, endeavoured with her utmoſt Skill to diſſemble it. But the many Sighs which inſenſibly eſcaped her, did too plainly diſcover it was no ſmall Trouble that was contained within her Breaſt; which how induſtrious ſoever ſhe was to conceal, I was no leſs impatient to draw an Account of it from her; but yet by all the moſt plauſible Ways I could invent.

We quickly got to *Hodſdon*, and ſhe renewing her entreaty to be ſet down there, I ſpurred on the faſter, proteſting I would not for the World be guilty of ſo much Barbarity to leave a Lady in her Condition, till I had brought her to her Father's Houſe, whither

ſhe had acquainted me ſhe was going. My great Civility in this Reſpect, and all the reſt of my Carriage to her was ſo obliging, that, after ſome further preſſing, ſhe was contented to diſcover to me the whole Story of her Miſfortunes, which ſhe related in the following manner.

I do not doubt, kind Sir, but you will heartily repent the Charity you have beſtowed on me, when you ſhall find that your generous Temper, and your preſſing Curioſity, has extorted from me a Secret that will render me the moſt odious, and moſt contemptible Creature of all my Sex. And though, to me, it be of the moſt dangerous Conſequence imaginable, to give you this Account,

yet

yet ſince you have thus ſolemnly engaged never to divulge it, I ſhall believe you to be a Man of ſo much Honour, as faithfully to keep your Word with me.

Be pleaſed then to know, Sir, that I am an unfortunate Daughter of Doctor *N.* a Reverend Divine, and Miniſter of that Pariſh to which I am now going, who having not many Children, gave us, as we grew up and were capable of it, ſuch Education as his narrow Fortune of about three hundred Pounds a Year would allow, being careful to inſtil into us the beſt Rules of Virtue and Piety. I was ſent to a Boarding-ſchool, to be inſtructed in the *French* Tongue, and thoſe other Accompliſhments of Muſick,

Dancing and fine Works, which young Ladies are taught at ſuch Places. Which Breeding, as I was then told, was to ſerve me for a Portion; my Father being able to add little more to my Fortune, when I ſhould happen to marry: or elſe, that it was to qualify me for the Service of ſome Lady, in caſe any ſuch Opportunity were preſented to me.

It was into the latter of theſe Conditions, when I ventured into the World, that my ill Fortune guided me: For by the Recommendation of a Perſon of Quality related to my Mother, I was entertained by a Baron's Lady, to be her Woman. The good Lady treated me, being young, with much more Tenderneſs and

Affection

Affection than I deſerved at her Hand, as by the Sequel of my Story you will find, cauſing me in thoſe Accompliſhments, which I had but rudely eſſayed to learn at School, now to be improved, by the ſame Maſters who taught her own Daughter. Which Goodneſs of hers, I requited with the baſeſt Ingratitude imaginable. For having the Misfortune to be by ſome eſteemed handſom, or at leaſt appearing ſo in the Eyes of my Lord, whoſe vicious Inclinations to Debauchery with Women, placed him much beneath the Character, commonly given of him in the World, which cried him up for his great Wiſdom, Sobriety and Goodneſs: by this reputed Saint, I ſay, I

was often ſolicited to Lewdneſs, which I reſiſted for ſeveral Months with great Reſolution.

At her coming to this Paſſage of her Story, her Tears broke out afreſh, ſo that ſhe was not able, for ſome Time, to proceed in it, till maſtering that Tranſport of her Paſſion, and drying her Eyes, ſhe thus went on.

My Lord's baſe Luſt, ſaid ſhe, ſeemed rather more inflamed than any way abated by my reſolute Denials. For ſeeing I was not to be won by fair Means, he ſtrove by ſubtilty to obtain his Ends; watching many Opportunities to catch me alone, and in Places convenient for his lewd purpoſe; all which Stratagems I ſtill evaded by getting from him,

and

and running into Company where I knew he durſt not purſue me. Thus I endeavoured to keep my Virtue unblemiſhed, till one unhappy Afternoon, when I knew my Lady was gone out to make her Viſits, and thinking he had alſo been abroad, becauſe I ſaw but few of his Servants within Doors, who indeed, as I afterwards diſcovered, had been ſent out by him on purpoſe; I was coming into my Lord's Dreſſing-Room, intending to entertain myſelf with ſome of the Books which uſually lay there: But he, who was watching for ſuch an Opportunity, ſuddenly ruſhing out of his Study, caught hold of me, and though I long reſiſted, crying and ſtruggling, yet at laſt, he

with Threats and Violence, mixt with fair Words and large Promiſes, of what generous Proviſion he would make for me, obtained his Will, leaving me for ever, with the baſe Brand of a Strumpet.

Here was the Current of her Diſcourſe again interrupted by another Shower of Tears, accompanied with a Storm of Sighs and Sobs, which had ſuch Influence on me that I was extremely touched with a Senſe of her Condition. And that I might divert her Grief, I put her in mind of her Story, of which I was impatient to hear the Concluſion.

When afterwards, continued ſhe (ſtriving to ſuppreſs her Sorrow) I had well conſidered the black Deed that I had committed,

and

and how ill I had ſtuck to thoſe excellent Methods of governing myſelf, which had been given me by my good Father, I was almoſt diſtracted, and had it ſeveral times in my Mind to have made away with myſelf, could I have contrived an effectual means of doing it, eſpecially too, when I found my Lord ſtill purſuing the Courſe of his Luſts; but I was deterred from ſuch Thoughts by reflecting, that to deſtroy myſelf had been ſtill to increaſe my Crime, by my adding Self-murder to it. And my Lord obſerving my conſtant Averſeneſs to all his Offers, and that I was not, by any Trick he could uſe, to be brought to a ſecond Compliance with him, deſiſted from any further Attempt.

It

It was not long before my Affliction was infinitely increaſed; for I was ſenſible of that which I dreaded more than Death itſelf, and finding my Shame began to be viſible to the World, I could not think what would become of me. I acquainted my Lord with it, who, to prevent the Scandal that was like to fall upon himſelf, adviſed me to leave his Lady's Service. And ſeeing I abſolutely refuſed to be kept for his Miſtreſs, gave me two hundred Guineas, with which he hoped, he ſaid, I might either get me a Huſband, or at leaſt be encouraged not to lay violent Hands on myſelf.

I took a Lodging in the City to lye-in privately, but with ſo blind a Pretence, that they might eaſily

(as

(as I could perceive) gueſs at the Truth of the matter: And out of Doors I durſt ſcarcely ſtir by Day-light, for fear of being met by any of my Acquaintance. Here I ſtaid till ſuch time as my own Stock of Money, which I had been able to lay up, was beginning to ſink very low; and being continually tormented with the Sting of a guilty Conſcience for the Wickedneſs I had committed, I was poſſeſſed with a ſtrong Belief, that to puniſh it, God would ſuffer me to be murdered in that obſcure Place for the ſake of my Gold, ſome of which I had been obliged to boaſt of, for the gaining me a Credit amongſt thoſe People to whom I was a Stranger, for which Reaſon they had been unwilling at

firſt

firſt, to receive me in amongſt them.

And having now neither Friend nor Confident to truſt with the Secret of my Misfortune, I, tho' my firſt Intentions had been to ſtay in that Houſe till after I was up, durſt not ſtick to that Reſolution, leſt, dying in Labour, my Child might be deprived of the Money my Lord gave me, which I had been careful to preſerve entire.

After I had revolved a thouſand extravagant Thoughts in my Mind, to contrive which way I ſhould diſpoſe of myſelf, without hazarding my own Life and that of my Child, or publiſhing my Ignominy, I at laſt concluded to go into *Cambridgeſhire* to my Father and Mother; who, I hoped, would

would not be ſo uncharitable as to let me periſh in that Condition, though they ſhould refuſe to entertain me in their Houſe, having brought upon them ſo great a Scandal. For I could think on no better Expedient than to make a plain Confeſſion to them of my Misfortune, and afterwards ſubmit myſelf to their Diſcretion, to diſpoſe of me as they ſhould think fit.

Now, becauſe I foreſaw the Miſery into which I was plunging myſelf, I contrived to manage my Affairs with the greateſt Frugality I could, and to that end ſending down my Trunks by the Carrier, I reſolved, for the ſaving of Charges, to walk it after them on foot. So, by break of Day this Morning

Morning I ſet out, and was able to reach no further on my Journey than the Place where you found me; and muſt have ſtaid at *Enfield* for ſome Convenience of Coach or Waggon to have carried me home, had not your Charity been thus ill employed on ſuch an undeſerving Wretch, which indeed is more Favour than I can expect from my own Parents; for I am in dread they will have ſo great Abhorrence of my Wickedneſs, that they will ſcarce admit me into their Doors, or own me for their Child in this reproachful Condition.

Here, in a Flood of Tears, ſhe made an End of her melancholy Relation, which very much excited my Compaſſion towards her, and

and a Deſire of aſſiſting her in this Diſtreſs. I uſed the beſt Rhetoric I was maſter of, for appeaſing her Grief, and for convincing her that it was now too late to remedy what was paſt by an Exceſs of Sorrow; but that without Doubt ſhe might better expiate her Crime by her future good and virtuous Courſe of Life. I likewiſe adviſed her, that ſince theſe Circumſtances were not yet known, ſhe ſhould ſtrive to keep them under Diſguiſe, from the Knowledge of any Perſon whatſoever: And begged her, that, being ſo near home, ſhe would not ſeem to have been crying, but appear to her Friends with the moſt compoſed and chearful Look ſhe could poſſibly frame.

After

After this, and a little further Conſultation how to put ſome fair Varniſh on the matter, we ended the Day and our Journey together, at her Father's Door. Here we alighted, and were joyfully received by the good Doctor and by her Mother, who wondered at our unlooked-for Viſit, and blamed their Daughter for ſending them no Notice of her coming; but they were more ſurpriſed, ſeeing me on my Knee, and aſking their Bleſſing, What is this, Daughter, demanded the Doctor, have you alſo brought with you a Huſband without our Knowledge? Ay, by my Truth! ſaid her Mother, and a great Belly too, or I am much miſtaken. I made an

Apology

Apology for carrying on my Courtſhip ſo ſecretly, without their Approbation, and for concealing our Marriage for ſo long a time, alledging ſuch plauſible Reaſons for that, and for her quitting her Lady's Service, as very well ſatisfied both Father and Mother; who, beſides a kind Reception, often beſtowed on us their hearty Bleſſings.

The reſt of the Evening, after Supper till Bed-time, was ſpent in much pleaſanter Diſcourſe, and more agreeable Converſation, than the Day had been. But it growing late, and the Mother reminding us of our wearineſs after ſo long a Journey, haſtened away her Daughter to Bed, whilſt I would

ſtay

ſtay below, I ſaid, till my Father had ſmoaked out his Pipe.

The Doctor was pleaſed with my Converſation, and imagined from thence, I was ſkilful in my Profeſſion, which I told him was a Surgeon: And he commended me for my induſtrious travelling into foreign Countries, as I informed him I had done, for Improvement of my ſkill in Surgery. But it being high Time to part, I took my leave and went up to his Daughter's Chamber. And now was the critical Part to be acted, on which depended the Credit of the whole Intrigue: For I, to clear the young Lady of the Infamy that muſt have fallen upon her, was neceſſitated, as you have heard, to own her for my Wife,

Wife, though under the borrowed Name of *Fiſher*, and now I muſt lye with her too, that is to ſay, in her Room, or elſe it might create a Suſpicion hereafter, that this had been but a Trick; and ſo the whole Affair might be detected.

She would fain have thought on ſome other Expedient, and have waved this; but I judged it moſt requiſite for keeping up the Reputation we had now gained; and proteſted a thouſand Times not to offer her the leaſt Incivility; for that I would only wrap myſelf in my great Coat, as many a Time I had been forced to do in my Travels; would throw myſelf on the Chairs, and it being a warm Summer's Night, I doubted not

but

but to ſleep very ſoundly. The Lady told me, that I, who out of the Generoſity of my Mind, could condeſcend to act ſo generous a Part as I had done that Day, purely for the charitable aſſiſting of an unhappy young Woman in diſtreſs; could not poſſibly, ſhe was confident, be guilty of breaking my Word with her, or of any thing elſe that was diſhonourable; and that therefore ſhe ſhould only lye in Pain to think, I muſt have ſo uneaſy a Night's Lodging for her Sake.

In this manner did I lay myſelf down, where the Tireſomneſs of my Day's Journey, together with my ſitting up late, gave me no Opportunity either to find fault with the Hardneſs of my Bed, or

to

to ſeek about the Room for an eaſier: For falling faſt aſleep, I awaked not till five o'Clock the next Morning, though I thought it to be much later; and fearing to be ſurpriſed as I thus lay, I got up and walked out into the Fields, where I met my Father with a Book in his Hand. The Doctor admired to ſee me ſtirring ſo early, and after various Diſcourſes of News, and of the Parts abroad beyond the Seas which I had ſeen, the Doctor began to reckon up the ſeveral ways which he had contrived for our Diverſion, and what Viſits we ſhould make during our Stay in the Country, particularly to a Widow-lady of a conſiderable Eſtate, who was his Wife's Siſter, and Godmother to his Daughter;

Daughter; alſo to ſome of their Relations in *Cambridge*, and other Places.

I told him I was extreamly ſorry to let him know, that my Affairs would not permit me to enjoy thoſe Favours deſigned me, for I was obliged to be back at *London* by to-morrow Night. My Father, at firſt, ſuppoſed me in Jeſt; but finding me ſerious, was troubled to think he ſhould ſo ſoon part with his Son and Daughter; and hearing me, after Dinner, fall upon the ſame Subject again, both Father and Mother were perſuading me to put off my Journey, if poſſible, for ſome little time longer, and preſſed to know the Neceſſity of ſuch a haſty Return.

Sir,

Sir, ſaid I, laſt Night I acquainted you with ſome Circumſtances of my preſent Condition, but not all, and muſt now add, that I had lately an advantageous Propoſal made me by an eminent Courtier, and my honoured Friend, of going to Sea, as chief Surgeon to one of his Majeſty's Frigates called the *Dreadnought*, ordered to convoy a Fleet of Merchantſhips to the *Weſt Indies*, where, for ſome time, ſhe is appointed to cruiſe, for clearing the Coaſts of our ſeveral Iſlands, and other Plantations there, of the Buccaneers, with whom they are very much infeſted. So that, beſides the Benefit of a handſom Salary, ſuch conſiderable Advantages may be made by an induſtrious Traffic

with the People of thoſe Countries, as have encouraged me to accept the Offer; for ſhould I have refuſed it, not a few Candidates of the moſt eminent of our Faculty in the City, ſtood ready to have put in for the Employment. On this Occaſion, Sir, I have brought down my Wife, and doubt not of my Mother's and your Care of her in my Abſence, and, at my Return, I hope to be in a Condition of making a ſufficient Acknowledgment to you both, for the favour you will do us.

At their hearing this, the Doctor and his Lady looked one upon another with great Concern, imaginig ſuch a Charge as their Daughter's Lying-in to be thus unexpectedly coming upon them; together

together with the Maintenance of her and her Child; and no future Proviſion for them, more than the uncertain Hope of her Huſband's profitable Voyage, to ſatisfy for all. The Conſideration of which, did ſo much perplex them, they knew not what Anſwer to make me.

I, noting their Silence, and expecting no leſs, at my ſtarting the Thing to them, took Occaſion to tell them, I gueſſed at the Reaſon of their ſurpriſe: which was, that they imagined I would leave my Wife and Child deſtitute of a Subſiſtence, and throw the burden wholly on them, which I ſaid was the leaſt of my Intentions. Then pulling out of my Pocket a

Purſe with the two hundred Guineas in it, which I had before received from her for this purpoſe, threw it into her Father's Lap, adding, that though as yet I had entered into no Treaty concerning her Portion, which I ſhould at preſent wave, I would not go from thence without a Huſband's Care of her; and acquainted them with the Sum contained in it, which they found to be as I had ſaid.

The Brightneſs of the Gold ſoon diſpelled all Clouds of Doubt and Suſpicion out of the Faces and Minds of the good Doctor, and of his Wife, and looſed the Organs of their Speech, making them now able to tell me, that ſince the Neceſſity of my Affairs would

would not permit them to be ſo happy to keep me at preſent amongſt them, they muſt be contented to be deprived of me till my good Fortune ſhould bring me ſafe back, which they hoped would not be very long. And they expreſſed great Fear of the many Dangers which they were ſenſible I muſt be expoſed to, in the Performance of ſuch a Voyage. But the Doctor aſſured me of his daily Prayers for my Preſervation, Health and good Succeſs in my Affairs; and further made me not only a ſolemn Promiſe of his utmoſt Care for my Wife and Child, but of muſtering up what Sum he poſſibly could for her Portion againſt my Return from Sea.

The next Morning after many kind Endearments expreſſed on all ſides, I took my leave, promiſing they ſhould hear from me the firſt Opportunity, and directed my Courſe towards *London*; and in about a Month after my Departure, I wrote a Letter to my ſuppoſed Wife, wherein I acquainted her, that ſoon after I got on board, I was ſeized with a violent Fever, which I feared would coſt me my Life. And if it ſhould, I entreated her in the moſt pathetic Terms not to give herſelf up to an unreaſonable Grief, but humbly ſubmit herſelf to that Providence, which had hitherto preſerved her, and which would not abandon her in her extremity. I added, that I was extreamly

extreamly ſorry I had it not in my Power to leave any additional ſupport to that I had left with my Father-in-law, a little before I took my leave of him, of which, I doubted not, ſhe was no Stranger to. This Letter was ſoon followed by another, ſigned by the Surgeon's Mate, who was my Acquaintance, and whom I had communicated part of the Story, informing her of my Death, and adding, that the Effects I had left behind me, would but barely defray the few Debts I had contracted, and the neceſſary Charges of my Funeral.

Thus, by an innocent Stratagem, having qualified the young Lady to ſhine in the honourable Condition of a Widow, I ſhall

leave her, and haſten to the next Chapter, whither, I invite the Reader to accompany me, promiſing him, upon the Word of an Author, it ſhall bring him to his Journey's End.

CHAP. XVII.

He goes to a Ball; sees a young Lady there, with whom the Reader has been already acquainted; makes a Declaration of Love; and, after some previous Steps, marries her.

ABOUT two Years after my pretended Marriage, it was my Fortune to be invited, with other of my Acquaintance, to a Ball in the City, where I had not been long before I cast my Eyes upon a young Lady, whom I thought I had somewhere seen before, attended by another Lady of about fifty.

My Impatience would not ſuffer me long to reſt, without endeavouring to be ſatisfied who ſhe was; and, as I ſtood up, and was about to inform myſelf by ſome of the Company, I perceived her Eyes fixed upon me, and in a Moment a bluſhing Colour dyed her Cheeks, which as quickly retired, leaving ſo chill a Paleneſs in its ſtead, that ſhe immediately fainted, and dropped from her Chair on the Floor.

This ſudden Accident put a Stop to the Dancing, and gave ſome Diſturbance to every one preſent, particularly to the old Lady, who, after ſhe had a little recovered her from the Fit, had her led down to her Coach.

Though

Though I could not, in all this time, call her to my Remembrance, yet I was much troubled at this Accident, and offered her my Hand to lead her down the Stairs, which ſhe courteouſly accepted; nor was I eaſy till I heard her tell the old Lady, whom ſhe called Aunt, that it was only a Fainting-fit, occaſioned, ſhe believed, by the Cloſeneſs of the Room.

When I had handed her into the Coach, I took my leave, and made a Feint of returning again to the Company, but, inſtead of which, I followed the Coach, undiſcovered, to the Place ſhe was put down at, and there learned of one of the Servants, that ſhe was a *Cambridgeſhire* Lady, Niece

to

to the Lady *D**** who had lately brought her to Town, and her Name *Fisher*.

I then immediately knew her to be my once pretended Wife, and afterwards Widow; which increased my surprise, and raised in me a more than ordinary Curiosity to find out some means of speaking to her. But being fearful of my being remembred by some of the Family, which might prove of prejudice to her Reputation (for I knew not as yet how Circumstances stood with her) I resolved to contrive some way to be first informed, from her own Mouth, of the manner in which I should conduct myself, provided she thought fit to allow me the Liberty of visiting her, for the

renewing

renewing our Acquaintance, ſo as to be out of danger of committing any miſtake in that Reſpect. I knew it was in vain to think of effecting this Purpoſe at that unſeaſonable Time, and yet the earneſt Deſire I had to ſee her again, would not ſuffer me to cloſe my Eyes the whole Night: For now ſhe was become infinitely more beautiful and more charming, than when I found her ſitting tired on the Road-ſide, weeping, and big with Child.

Thus reflecting on paſt Circumſtances, I was led to cenſure her for that Frailty, which ſhe had owned to me to have been guilty of, and which muſt have rendered her contemptible to all the World, had not her Reputa-

tion

tion been healed up by me in the manner it has been related. And yet, on the other Hand, I could not help admiring her as the moſt amiable Woman I had ever ſeen: Which Admiration begot in me, at the ſame time a more favourable Opinion of her Error, for I conſidered it to have been committed when ſhe was very young, that it had never been repeated, tho' urged to it by the ſtrongeſt Solicitations; that her Innocence had been betrayed by the Subtilty and Violence of an artful Deceiver, who in ſtrict Juſtice, deſerved more to be arraigned for a Raviſher, than ſhe to have borne the Infamy of it. And I was willing to believe, that the deep Senſe ſhe had expreſſed of that

Sin,

Sin, and her Deteſtation of it, had made ſo full an Attonement, that, provided, ſhe had lived with that Modeſty and Reſervedneſs, which I hoped ſhe had, I could not think but ſhe muſt now be reckoned a moſt virtuous Woman.

With theſe Reflections I got up the next Morning, and made the beſt of my way to a Milliner's, who lived near the Lady's Lodging, and prevailed with the Miſtreſs of the Shop, to convey a Letter, which I had already prepared, into Mrs. *Fiſher*'s own Hands.

This being done, the young Lady, under the Pretence of going a few Doors off to buy ſome Ribbons, came to the Milliners, where

where I had been waiting for her alone in the Parlour. Our meeting was the moſt ſurpriſing imaginable; for neither one nor the other had, at firſt, any power to ſpeak. I, for the Joy I had to ſee her again, though I could hardly perſuade myſelf ſhe was the ſame Perſon, being ſo much altered to her Advantage; and ſhe, as ſhe afterwards told me, for the ſhame ſhe had to think of the diſgraceful Condition wherein I firſt found her, and from which I had ſo ſucceſsfully relieved her. And this Thought made ſuch an Impreſſion upon her Mind, as had nigh coſt her another fainting Fit: But recovering her Spirits, ſhe began to apologize for her Ingratitude in delaying to return her

ſincere

ſincere Thanks for the unmerited Favours (as ſhe was pleaſed to call them) which ſhe had received from me; calling me the moſt generous of Men, and her good Angel. But I quickly interrupted her, to tell her how much I was rejoiced to ſee Her again, whom I had not the Liberty of writing to, much leſs to viſit, leſt a Diſcovery might have enſued, which might have proved fatal to her Repoſe.

When our firſt Tranſports were over, I begged of her to give me a general Account of the Particulars which happened after my Departure from her Father's, and in what manner, he, and her Mother, received the Account of my ſuppoſed Death. Three Weeks,

Weeks, ſaid ſhe, had not paſſed after you had left us, before I was brought to bed of a fine Boy, to the great Joy of all my Relations, and now nothing was more wiſhed for than to hear from you, as you had promiſed we ſhould, the firſt Opportunity. It will ſuffice to tell you we received your Letter, as alſo that which followed it, acquainting us with your Death.

My Parents were inconſolable at this melancholy News, and really *felt* thoſe Sorrows which I only *feigned*. However, they endeavoured to comfort me in the beſt manner they could, entreating me, that for my Child's ſake, I would not lay this Affliction too much to heart, leſt they ſhould have Cauſe to lament two Deaths inſtead

inſtead of one; and they made me large Promiſes of future Kindneſſes to induce me to a Compliance. I promiſed to obey, but formally put myſelf into deep Mourning, as did all my Relations, who came to condole with me for the Loſs of my Huſband, amongſt whom was the Lady *D**** my Aunt and Godmother, who compaſſionated my Condition, as being not yet arrived to my nineteenth Year. It was this Conſideration that induced that excellent Lady to take me home with her, and to treat me as her Friend and Companion.

Soon After, ſome extraordinary Occaſions drew her from her Country Retirement, where ſhe had purpoſed to have ended her Days,

Days, having been a Widow about four or five Years, and brought her to *London*, much againſt her Inclination. She took Lodgings at a Friend's Houſe in the City, with whom we have continued ever ſince, and it is to them I am indebted for the Pleaſure of once more beholding my Friend and Benefactor, for it was at their Interceſſion my Aunt conſented to appear at the Ball.

Here ſhe ended. And I confeſs, I was ſo charmed to hear ſhe had ſo well ſupported her Credit, and to find ſhe ſtill remained unmarried, that I immediately made her a Tender of my Heart, and told her I ſhould look upon it as the happieſt Moment of my Life

if

if ſhe would permit me to pay my Addreſſes to her.

She received this Declaration with a ſeeming Diſtruſt, and told me, when ſhe looked back on her paſt Conduct, ſhe could not but think it muſt render her contemptible, even in the Eyes of the meaneſt of Men, were her Infamy publickly known, and entreated me not to make Choice of her for a Subject of my Mirth, for, added ſhe, ever ſince that unhappy Hour, I have endeavoured by my Penitence, and by a virtuous and irreproachable Behaviour, to expiate for my Crime; which indeed, ought rather to be charged on my Deluder, who, practiſed in the Arts of Diſſimulation, took Advantage of my

Youth

Youth and Inexperience to undo me.

I know it, ſaid I, and am ſorry you could think I meant to inſult you for that Misfortune, for a Fault I will not call it, and I aſſure you, added I, my Words are the faithful Interpreters of my Heart, as I ſhould think it the greateſt Happineſs could befall me, if you would vouchſafe me the Honour I wiſh for, which is that of being accepted for your Huſband.

Here we were interrupted by a Meſſenger from her Aunt, requiring her Attendance at home, which broke off our Converſation for that Time, but not till we had agreed to meet at the ſame Place the next Day.

In

In ſhort, after ſome few meetings, at our appointed Rendezvous, there followed ſo good an Underſtanding between us, that, now, nothing was wanting to complete our Happineſs but the Conſent of her Father, and of her Aunt the Lady *D****. This proved no great Obſtacle, for the Doctor no ſooner heard the Character I bore, and received a ſatisfactory Account of my Circumſtances, as alſo of the Offer I propoſed his Daughter, of ſettleing a conſiderable Jointure upon her, without inſiſting on any Portion with her, but he readily gave his Conſent. And the Aunt, after ſhe was made acquainted with my Intentions, very courteouſly invited me to her Lodgings,

ings, and was ſo well ſatisfied with the Match, that ſhe generouſly offered to give her beloved Niece, two thouſand Pounds, on the wedding Day, and promiſed to ſettle upon her the greateſt Part of her Eſtate, which was conſiderable, after her own Death.

As ſoon as the Formalities of ſigning and ſealing were finiſhed, and the Wedding-cloaths ready againſt the appointed Day, the good old Doctor appeared amongſt us, who had made a Journey to *London*, on purpoſe, as he ſaid, to ſee the Man, who was in a few Days to be his Son-in-law, and to give him his Bleſſing. He added, that it both rejoiced and ſurpriſed him to find, I ſo much reſembled that worthy Man

Mr.

Mr. *Fiſher*, his Daughter's firſt Huſband, whoſe Perſon and Qualifications he highly extolled. And neither he, his Lady, nor the kind Aunt, ever in the leaſt ſuſpected, the innocent Impoſture I had before put upon them.

The wiſh'd-for Morning being come, the Solemnities of the Church were to be attended, which were to bind thoſe Hands whoſe Hearts were joined before. And no ſooner was the Ceremony over, than the good old Lady *D**** gave me a Draught upon her Banker, who was there a Gueſt, and accepted it, for two thouſand Pounds. And the next Day, my Wife's Father made her a preſent of a handſom Set of dreſſing Plate, to the value of two hundred

Pounds, and told her he would take upon her the Care and Education of his Grandſon *Fiſher*, having already, he ſaid, improved for him the two hundred Guineas left by his deceaſed Father.

And now, gentle Reader, by whatever Name thou art dignified or diſtinguiſhed, whether Critic or Hypercritic, Male or Female, married or unmarried, if thou ſhouldſt take upon thee to cenſure me for this my Union, with one, of whoſe Frailty I was ſo well acquainted; Thus might I anſwer you in the Words of an ancient Bard.

Fie! this Ingroſſment is but mere Conceit:
Does the ſweet Spring leſs cool, leſs fair appear,

When

When many Thirſts are quench'd in her, than
when
But one has drank? Find you not the ſame
Sweets,
When more beſides yourſelf have ſmelt your
Roſe?

Or rather, as the ſame Bard better ſings.

She is of the beſt Blood, yet betters it
With all the Graces of an excellent Spirit:
Mild as the infant Roſe, and innocent
As when Heav'n lent her us. Her Mind, as
well
As Face, is yet a Paradiſe untainted
With Blemiſhes, or the ſpreading Weeds of
Vice.

FINIS.